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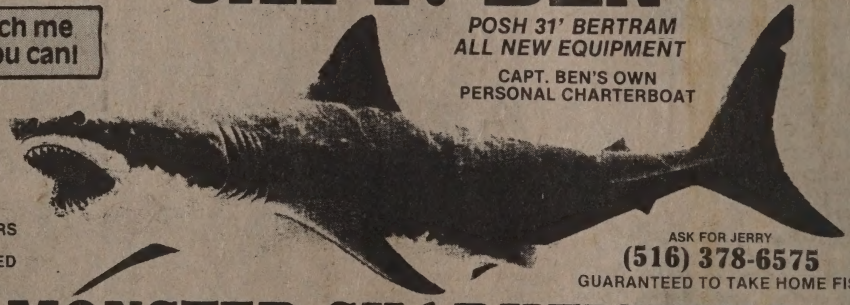

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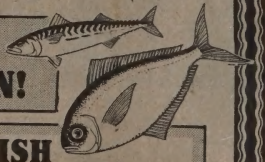

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Volume 16, Number 34 **August 27th, 1981**

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This angler has just whipped a tiderunner weak on light spinning tackle. See "Doc" Grell's article, "Light Spinning Equals Lots of Fun" beginning on page 20. Cover photo by Pete Barrett.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **CURRENT LEADERS IN THE FISHERMAN CONTEST**

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage is paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.70 per copy; back issues $.85 per copy. Subscriptions: One Year, 50 Issues - $14; Two Years, 100 Issues - $26; Three Years, 150 Issues - $38. Photographs and written contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests; however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new address. Please allow two to four weeks for the change. USPS 588-160.

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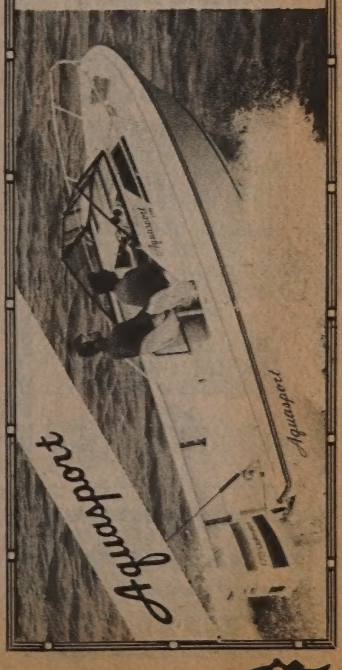

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EDITORIAL

NEED HELP WITH BUNKER BOATS

Let us begin with a brief and general review of the history of The Long Island Fisherman's concern about bunker boats in Long Island Sound. In the late 1960s large bunker began to appear in Long Island Sound in great numbers after being absent for many years. At that time then, the bunker boats (mostly owned by SeaCoast Products) began to appear in Long Island Sound and they have harvested tremendous quantities of bunker from the Sound for a little more than a decade. Large bunker mean large bass and large bluefish and these two predators bring out the recreational fishermen in numbers. The scene of activity changes from year to year, but the fact remains that there is intense competition between the bunker boats and recreational fishermen for the bunker resource. Recreational fishermen are not interested in catching bunker for food, but rather as bait for the bass and blues. Without large schools of the large bunker, the outsized bass and blues just aren't around in numbers. This last point is debated by some, including the DEC, but we state it without caution and without reservation. As a marine scientist the logic is clear. Older and larger predators cannot afford to chase after small baits all the time because it is simply not an efficient feeding behavior. Too much energy is lost in swimming against the food energy intake. That does not mean that large predators do not feed on small baits at times. Clearly, when sand eels and spearing are very abundant, large game fish will feed on them. However, here again the energy efficiency is high. When small baits are densely schooled, large predators can ingest a quantity with each gulp.

A small problem arises with this feeding pattern. Generally, small baits are only densely packed and super abundant in the spring into early summer. Usually, by late July in Long Island Sound, disease, predation, and other factors have caused great attrition in the once-dense schools. It is in the early summer then that large game fish will look to larger prey while their smaller cousins will continue to track down individual small baits. Thus, by the time the fall arrives and the larger baits begin to migrate, the large bass and blues are keyed to them. In Long Island Sound the predominant large bait is bunker. For this reason large blues begin to appear in the harbors of the Sound in the fall where bunker schools begin to appear near the surface. This combination of large blues, vast schools of big bunker, and a semi-enclosed body of water creates tremendous angling potential.

Of prime concern is the fact that for many family-run fishing businesses along the north shore, the two or three week binge of the blues on the bunker can make the difference between making a living for the year and existing at a marginal level. Tackle stores, tackle manufacturers, bait dealers and sellers, tackle distributors, party boats, small boat liveries, etc., need the fall and late summer bluefish action in order to maintain viable businesses. Their customers, the recreational fishermen, also need this flurry of activity. Although periods of activity for weaks and blues do occur throughout the fishing season, and in spite of the presence of blacks, porgies, flounder, etc., from the bottom dwelling tribe, fishing in Long Island Sound usually drops off in the summer doldrums and many a practiced angler intent on game fish looks forward to that brief late summer and fall period in order to exercise their rods and their arms.

Fine. We believe that establishes sufficiently that recreational fishermen need the bunker in Long Island Sound. We also know that in some years the bunker boats may need the bunker in Long Island Sound. Okay! Both groups need the bunker and historically there was conflict between the two users. The conflict arises in the usual way: a result of the arrogance of commercial fishermen. On one occasion in the early 1970s a cluster of small recreational vessels were surrounded by a purse seine from several bunker boats. The recreational fishermen were there first, but the bunker boat captain said he had a right to the fish because he was making a living. That's the story we always hear and it totally ignores all the folks making a living off the recreational angler and recreational fishing. These incidents of conflict led to the Pisani-Mannix Law (also known as the buoy line law). There are buoys that mark the entrances to all harbors and according to the law the vessels are not supposed to come inside a line that connects these buoys in order to fish. In addition, the bunker boats are not supposed to fish west of Execution Light and the restrictions only extend out as far as Eaton's Neck.

Since the law was passed there have been numerous violations and it has generally been the policy of SeaCoast Products to fine the captains when violations are reported. That's okay, but there are a few things we have to wonder about. First, since our own DEC has the authority to restrict them from fishing in Long Island Sound because these vessels are not resident fishing vessels, we wonder why their permits have been reissued year after year in the face of numerous violations. Second, we wonder why the DEC has failed to provide adequate surveillance of these vessels when they are in Long Island Sound. When out-of-state vessels are to fish in our waters they contact the DEC so that DEC is aware of how many boats are in the Sound, and when they are there. It troubles us that most violations have been reported by citizens (non-fishermen) and fishermen. We wonder why the DEC does not send out a patrol to watch them when they are in the Sound. Had they done this once in awhile they might have witnessed long ago what the fishermen have seen: the smell, the rotting carcasses that spill over, the conflict with recreational anglers who have every right to be fishing, and the callous disregard for the resource. Again, we are on firm footing with regard to this last statement. Scientists have stated unequivocally that the industry over-harvests the resource—particularly the so-called "peanuts" or small bunker. A management plan in the works will call for cutbacks on catches.

So much for history. To the point. After a disastrous fall in 1980, when the bunker boats enjoyed calm, clear weather and the large blues (which were briefly abundant) quickly disappeared, we decided to make a trip to New Jersey in April to discuss this situation with SeaCoast. We had spoken with them on several other occasions and they seemed reasonable, so we thought it wouldn't hurt to explain our situation and see if we couldn't work out a compromise that would help everybody and hurt no one. We were encouraged in our pilgrimage after a discussion with Senator Gunther from Connecticut, who felt that the company would be receptive. Naturally, we picked the worst day in April for the trip, with tropical downpours and gale winds. It was a trip to remember in more ways than one.

From the outset, I knew we were not going to see eye to eye, because after some brief pleasantries and a cup of coffee, the SeaCoast people became aggressive, rigid, uncooperative, and actually abusive. We explained that we did not want to put them out of business, but that our people were having a problem. We indicated to them that we wanted to share the resource in a meaningful way. We suggested several compromises and they categorically rejected each suggestion without reasons or without expressing any willingness to consider the suggestions. I then asked them to take the suggestions to the powers that be in the company and come back to us with a counter proposal and they refused. Again we heard the same old and tired line about how they have to make a living and they again showed no understanding of the fact that thousands of people making a living off recreational angling. I returned to New York disgusted.

Recent involvement with the Gillnet Law, the Long Island State Park Commission, the State Parklands bill, and the bluefish management plan forced a postponement of further activity on this issue. However, a number of the above have been successfully moved along and it is now time to deal with bunker.

We ask the following. One, we ask that the DEC send out a patrol to watch the bunker boats when they are in the Sound and document violations. We ask that boats caught in violation be denied fishing access next year. Second, we ask for help from our readers. Senator Johnson has expressed an interest in helping us with this problem. As an initial step it will be helpful to gather as much data about the activities of the bunker boats in Long Island Sound as possible. Therefore, we ask that you do the following. With an eye towards the Pisani-Mannix Law described herein, we ask our readers to report any and **ALL** violations. We ask that you make note of the following information: The name of the boat. The number of the boat. The exact position of boat relative to buoys and landmarks. The date. The time of day. Now, at night it may be difficult to spot numbers and names and therefore it will become very important to note markings or colors of the vessels. At night, do the best you can. We then ask that you make a complaint to the DEC office at Stony Brook. The telephone number is (516) 751-7900 and ask for Mr. Taormina's office. Make the formal complaint to his office and provide the information listed above, or as much of it as you can. Then, please call The Long Island Fisherman at (516) 725-4200. The receptionist will make a record of your complaint. Please call LIF Monday through Thursday only. The record we keep at LIF will be helpful to our effort with Senator Johnson. We will follow-up on your complaint with DEC, as well as use the data for further action.

A last reminder. We need all the help you can give. These things take time and because nothing happens overnight doesn't indicate that nothing will happen. We are beginning yet another project and with your help we will be persistent and successful.

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INTERSTATE FISHERY MGT. BD. MAKES STRIPED BASS RECOMMENDATIONS

An interstate striped bass management plan setting minimum size limits and closing the fishery in spawning seasons has been recommended for sections of the Atlantic coastal region.

The measures, aimed at restoring and maintaining an abundant striped bass fishery, were recommended by the Striped Bass Fishery Management Board made up of marine fisheries administrators from Maine to North Carolina.

Specific management measures proposed include:

1. The minimum keeping size in the Hudson River, Chesapeake Bay and North Carolina's Albermarle Sound would be 14 inches fork length (15 inches total length).

2. In all other coastal areas, the minimum size would be 24 inches fork length (25 inches total length) with recreational fishermen permitted to keep four fish per day below that length and commercial netters permitted five percent of their daily catch under 24 inches FL (25 inches TL).

3. All major spawning areas or rivers, as defined by the approriate states, would be closed during spawning activity.

4. All persons who buy or sell striped bass would be required to obtain a permit.

5. A monitoring and data collection program would be implemented to further define the fishery and to judge the effects of the management measures.

These steps are part of a plan being prepared by the Board under the auspices of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission through funding from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The coastal striped bass is a migratory species which may spawn in waters of one state, migrate and feed through another and winter in another.

Recent declines in this valuable sport and commercial fish have prompted the states to attempt to act in concert to manage this common resource.

Without a common management theme the failure of one of several states to effectively manage the resource will affect management efforts in other states. The draft plan which the administrators reviewed, presented the management goal as: To perpetuate the striped bass resource in fishable abundance, throughout its range, generating the greatest possible net economic and social benefits from its harvest and utilization over time.

The administrators unanimously voted to adopt, in principle, the recommended management measures. It was recognized that each states' social, political and fishery situation differed and that each state much act within their constraints to adopt the management measures. Several of the states have, in fact, already adopted regulations which are similar or equal to the interim recommended management measures. These are viewed as a reflection of the present seriousness of the situation and a vote of confidence in the benefits expected from the management measures.

BASIC BOATING COURSE

Beginning Tuesday night, September 8, 1981, and for ten consecutive Tuesday nights, Bronx Power Squadron will be offering a basic boating course at Fort Schuyler. The course will begin at 7:30 p.m.; there will be a nominal fee for material.

For further information, interested parties can call Lt/C Anthony Moscatti at (212) 881-9752.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB SNAPPER DERBY

The Babylon Tuna Club will hold their annual Snapper Derby on Saturday, August 29, 1981 at the Babylon Village Dock, Fire Island Ave., Babylon. It will run from 9AM-1PM. All children 12-years-old and under are eligible.

Hot dogs, soda, ice cream, bait and prizes will be provided. There will be trophies and prizes for the eight largest snappers.

New Products

OMC BUILDS FIRST V8 OUTBOARD

Charles D. Strang, president and chief executive officer for Outboard Marine Corporation, announced today that OMC has built what is believed to be the most powerful outboard ever made. This V8 outboard, the first of this type ever to be built, will see action in Europe's 1981 racing circuit in Evinrude and Johnson racing versions.

The new V8 of approximately 3.5 Liters displacement (214 cubic inches-3503 cc) will be sold to qualified drivers and sponsors. The horsepower was not revealed, but the V8 qualifies for racing in the Union of International Motorboating's Formula I, OZ-Class for unlimited-horsepower engines.

Initial production of these engines will be distributed to those independent sponsors who have already committed for the 1981 racing season. Later, as sufficient orders are re-

ceived, the powerful outboards will be built and sold to qualified individuals on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Strang said the new outboard has an aluminum block with two banks of four cylinders each in a 90° "V" configuration. There are 16 carburetor throats, two per cylinder.

OMC designed its new racing engine with a loop-scavenged fuel charging system, known for the efficient way it pulls in a fresh fuel mixture and cleanly expels the spent charge from the combustion area in one smooth "loop." Each cylinder is lined with a cast-iron sleeve to withstand the high power output.

Additional horsepower is generated by a highly-tuned, integral exhaust system. The futuristic gearcase encloses a dual-pinion gearing system akin to that used on smaller Johnson and Evinrude high-performance models but designed to carry the extra power of the V8.

With its integrated hydraulic power lift, the driver of the boat can raise and lower the motor on the transom while under way. This allows the driver to keep the special racing propellers at the optimum depth for various water and speed conditions.

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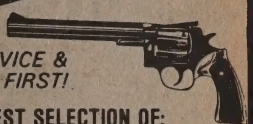

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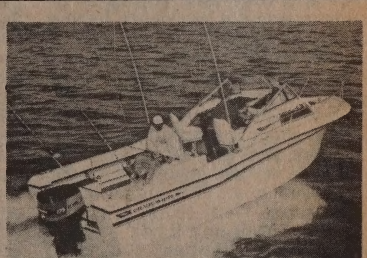

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NATIONAL SCENE

Dingell-Johnson Expansion Continues to Stir Controversy

by Al Ristori

The legislative proposal to expand the Dingell/Johnson Fund, by extending the ten percent excise tax to certain additional items of fishing tackle and adding a three percent excise tax on boats, motors, and trailers normally used for fishing, has stirred up a good deal of controversy and even split the fishing industry.

The American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) has taken a strong position against any addition to the present tax. Originally they had approved of adding previously neglected fishing items (such as line), but now they're opposed to the entire package—reasoning that the people voted against new taxes last year. However, there have been several breaks in that position within the industry.

At the July 8 hearings on the legislation, conducted by the House Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife Restoration, Dick Kotis testified strongly in favor of the bill. Kotis is president of Arbogast Co. (lure manufacturers) and a former president of AFTMA. Also testifying for the bill (HR2250) was James R. Balkom, Jr., president of Techsonic Industries (Humminbird flashers and graph recorders)—an AFTMA member. The boating industry ranks were broken by Dave Newton, assistant to the president of Hydra-Sports, who also conveyed the support of Sheldon Coleman. Coleman is chairman of the board of The Coleman Company, which sells more canoes than any other firm in the country.

Additional support at the hearings was provided by Ray Scott of BASS, Inc., on behalf of his 385,000 members, and by John L. Morris, president of Bass Pro Shops, Inc., a very big mail order firm. The opposition was led by Tom Schedler of AFTMA and Jim Christian, Washington counsel for the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). In his testimony, Christian indicated that others expressing dissatisfaction with the bill included the National Boating Federation, Boat/US, Marine Retailers Association of America, and NMMA directors David Loveless of Boston Whaler, Dick Lincoln of OMC, and Joe Swift of Mercury Marine.

Most recently, a press release has been issued by AFTMA member James Heddon's Sons endorsing expansion of the D/J Fund. According to John Marsman, Executive Vice-President, "As much as we are against tax increases as individuals, our Board believes that if the Dingell/Johnson Fund is to serve its intended purpose, then all manufacturers who benefit from these conservation expenditures should participate in the funding."

What Are Moonies Up To?

Earlier this year I reported that Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church was building a large fleet of open "Mako-type" fishing boats at a factory in Long Island Sound. The word was that these boats were to be used in the tuna fishery in Massachusetts Bay, but it seems that many of them never got up there. News reports at the end of July indicated that as many as 68 of the very well equipped boats (which looked to be about 25') were stored on a church property in Tarrytown, New York—in violation of local zoning ordinances. A photo published in the July 28th issue of The New York Times shows the boats rigged with 225 h.p. Mercury outboards, trim tabs, and full instrumentation on the center consoles.

Why are these boats being held back? There could be any number of reasons for that, and the Moonies aren't providing any explanations—except that the boats are to be used in their "spiritual-training program." Our worry, right from the beginning, has been that this new fleet might be used in the southern area. The Moonies have been very active in handlining for giant tuna off Gloucester and could quickly shift their operation to the Mud Hole or Block Island if the fishing warranted it. A catch rate here that would be considered poor to the north would still be sufficient to chew up our small quota and put an end to tournaments scheduled in September. Of course, all this is pure speculation. Let's hope that the Moonies aren't thinking about a local giant tuna handline fishery at all.

Tournament of Champions Scheduled

A unique opportunity to get the best of Mid-Atlantic offshore anglers together has been devised by Dick Weber, proprietor of South Jersey Fishing Center in Cape May. Boats placing in the marlin and tuna categories of ten tournaments between Ocean City, Maryland and Beach Haven, New Jersey are eligible to compete in the Tournament of Champions to be held September 14-17 at South Jersey Fishing Center. There will be three days of fishing, and championship trophies will be awarded for blue marlin, white marlin, and tuna. For information, contact Weber at (609) 884-2400.

NWF Intensifies Campaign To Dump Watt

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), which recently called for President Reagan to dismiss Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, has urged its 4.5 million members and suppporters to write, wire or call the President with the same message. Watt has claimed that NWF has misrepresented his opinions on certain issues, and insists that a poll they took of members was "rigged" against him. Watt got a lot friendlier reception in June when he appeared before the annual meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA). Though the writers were cautious and Watt managed to skirt around some important questions, the August issue of the OWAA's "Outdoors Unlimited" notes that "he received a majority standing ovation after his talk."

According to the reports of his speech, Watt conceded that he is opposed to acquiring more park lands until those presently in the system can be brought up to standards. However, that "near-moratorium on park land acquisition will not affect the wetlands program—it is proceeding. We will acquire from willing sellers those fragile wetlands which might be lost forever if there is delay." Watt also seemed to indicate that he favored making park lands as accessible as possible to the general public, rather than tying them up as virtual wilderness areas.

Canadians Object to U.S. Clean Air Act Proposals

Canadian Environment Minister John Roberts has expressed concern

(Continued on page 54.)

L.I.F. BUMPER STICKER CONTEST

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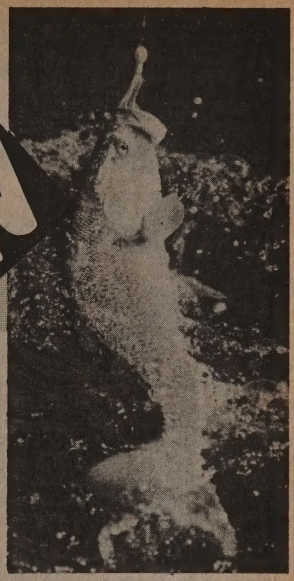

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Ernest Marshall of Holbrook called in by the Wednesday deadline to become last week's winner of the L.I.F. Bumper Sticker Contest. He won a trip aboard The Viking Fleet of Montauk.

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MARLIN IV	Capt.	SUPER SPRAY	PILOT II	EVER READY	CASEY LEE
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	Capt. SCOTTY	STARSTREAM II			COMMODORE
	Capt.	Capt. LOU FLEET			
	BEN LITWIN				
	CAPT. ROD				

Blues—Most Popular Species

Part Three — *by William A. Muller*

FIRST PARTS. A few issues back we discussed bluefish spawning, migration, feeding, and evidence of the importance of bluefish to recreational fishermen. Before I continue, I'd like to repeat one important statistic. According to the 1960 and 1979 survey of East Coast recreational fishermen, bluefish made up 7.5% of the total recreational catch in 1960 and that number ballooned to 31.2% in the 1979 survey. Although we do believe recreational fishing interest for bluefish has increased over the last few decades because of the extremely large blues we have been enjoying inshore, we do not accept a jump from 7.5% to 31.2%. We believe inaccuracies in the early survey provided very conservative data. However, no matter how you cut it, blues are important to our recreational fishing industry and the fishing of virtually every fisherperson on Long Island.

MORE THAN ANY OTHER. The 1979 survey reveals that recreational fishermen took more blues along the East Coast than any other species including winter flounders and porgies. How about that! There were an estimated 25,428,000 blues caught by recreational anglers that year for a total weight of 96,661,000 pounds! Fluke were a distant second with 23,858,000 pounds caught, and weakfish were fifth with 4,417,000 fish caught for a total weight of 11,166,000 pounds.

COMMERCIALLY. Bluefish have traditionally not been an important commercial species. In 1979, for example, the commercial catch of blues was only 11.3% of the total bluefish catch. Furthermore, the bluefish is only a significant commercial factor in three East Coast states. Only in New York, Florida, and Delaware do bluefish landings exceed one percent of the total commercial landings. Moreover, the recreational and the seasonal catch seems to follow a very definite seasonal pattern. From Maryland to New England the best fishing doesn't occur until July and then holds up well through September when it begins to drop off. However, In North Carolina the fishing gets going in November and holds until late May. A similar pattern is observed for Florida bluefishing. The best fishing is in the winter months with little, if any blues taken during the summer months. One can thus conclude that there is some north-south migration, but if you'll remember the discussion in the previous Parts I and II, we recall that there are at least two spawning populations and there is some belief that these are fish that move slightly north but mostly west out of the Gulf Stream and into inshore waters. Thus, it is possible that the winter fish in North Carolina and Florida may migrate into lower New England waters, but it is also possible that these blues are spending some of the summer months slightly north and out to sea off Florida where water temperatures are more stable and less likely to rise and fall with seasonal weather patterns.

WHAT COMMERCIAL FISHING METHOD CATCHES THE MOST BLUES? How many of you would say it was trawlers? How many would vote for pound nets? How about the all-time favorite haul seiners? Well, in 1979 haul seiners accounted for only 11.5% of the bluefish taken by commercial means. Pound nets took 27% of the total commercial bluefish catch and otter trawls 25.5%. Gill nets took 20.1%. What is very interesting is that in 1969 gill nets accounted for 49.5% of the total commercial bluefish catch and has declined steadily. In 1969 trawlers took only 3.4% of the total and their catches have increased steadily. Why? I have to believe that the size of the fish has something to do with all this. First, in 1969 the average size of inshore blues was smaller than for 1979. The gorillagators of the the late Seventies are tougher to lure into a gill net and they can really chop up the monofilament mesh. On the other hand, the trawlers have become larger and faster and thus they are able to take the fast swimming blues. I'd account for the increase in blues caught by pound nets by pointing out that during the period 1969 to 1979 pound nets in East Coast waters have increased many times over, and with more pressure there is likely to be a larger catch.

BIGGEST COMMERCIAL THREAT. The biggest future threat to recreational bluefishing is purse seining. So far this method has been mostly experimental and the catches have been small. It is this technique, especially, that the bluefish management plan recently proposed intends to discourage. There is little doubt that techniques and technologies will soon evolve to the point where commercial fishermen would have the capability to catch large quantities of blues in the coastal ocean. The market is there. Spain, Japan, Asia, and Africa have expressed interest in American-caught blues. This possibility must be avoided at all cost. We sit on the sub-panel for the bluefish management plan and we assure you that we'll do everything we can to make sure that the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council sticks to its original goal of maintaining the traditional recreational fishery for bluefish and discouraging the expansion of the commercial fishing for blues.

IMPORTANT TO PARTY AND CHARTER BOATS. Incredible as it may seem, bluefish accounted for a little less than half the total number of fish caught on charter and party boats along the East Coast. In fact, these operations took about ten times the numbers of blues as any other species.

RECENT ADDED IMPORT TO SURF FISHERMEN. The striped bass population is down, the weaks aren't as numerous as they once were, and so the bluefish have often bailed out the hard-working surf fisherman. There seems to be two sizes of bluefish available in the last few years with very few fish in the in-between sizes. At times, there have been hordes of fish in the one to three pound range and sometimes four and five pounders. Then there is a big jump to fish of ten pounds and up into the twenties. I did an analysis of the blues caught by the High Hill Striper Club in 1979 and 1980 and in both years I found that club members took more fourteen pound blues than fish of any other size over five pounds. That is remarkable and I have wondered repeatedly why fish of this size should dominate the schools of larger blues. Haven't come up with an answer but the data is intriguing. Anyway, blues—both the monsters and the little guys—have been providing much of the local beach action.

MUCH THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR THE SMALL BOAT FISHERMAN. What happens when you launch the boat and head out to the weakfish grounds only to find out that they aren't biting today or that they bit an hour ago and it's all over? Well, many fishermen in small boats have discovered that if they look around they can frequently come across a

school of small blues. These fish are in the back bays, in the Sound, and in the inlets. They are, at times, like fleas on a dog, and thank goodness. Even though we have been spoiled with gorillagators in the last decade, there is still great sport in top water action for small blues in the one to three and four pound range. Instead of popping plugs and tin, next time try the tube lures such as the WhipTail and Eelworms made by Tri-Fin Tackle. Many times a tin sinks too deep and a plug remains too high, but the tube lures can be worked at any depth depending upon the weight of the lure, the speed of the retrieve, and the direction of the cast relative to the drift.

THE BIG AND THE LITTLE. I've nattered about this before and we have pointed in this direction in this three-part bluefish series, but I can't resist further elaboration. It is my contention, based upon years of fishing for blues, an examination of available scientific data, and the data of fishing clubs, that there are at least two different types or subspecies of blues that we work over in New York waters. We say, at least, because that number could be as high as five different subspecies. That is, the fish that grow to thirty pounds and those that grow to about six and eight pounds. It has been our experience that the bigger types even look different. The body proportions are different—even in small fish of that type. I have, for example, looked at two, eight pound blues. One was longer and thinner and its head was not as bulky and massive. The second fish was shorter, thicker, a more massive head, and the dorsal surface was dark blue, while the thinner one was gray, silvery green. These two fish were taken in the same place within minutes of each other. As a scientist, I am well aware that all creatures can differ in their appearance, from one specimen to the other, but I do not believe that they would or could differ as drastically or in the same ways unless they were different fish: subspecies. What accounts for the difference of abundance? Why weren't many of these monsters taken years ago? We can't be sure, but we'll bet it's our old friends water temperature and available bait. We think the big blues follow the big baits of bunker and herring, etc. The big bunker started coming back in the late 60s and so, too, did the big blues. We need more research on this and we need it fast. We need blood chemistry studies to determine exactly how many subspecies are out there. This could be of great value to those developing and implementing the management plan.

WRITE IN ABOUT YOUR BLUEFISH THEORIES. What have you observed, or read about, or what do you believe is true about blues. Write in and tell us. Remember, blues like fingers almost as much as bunker: give a blue its due!

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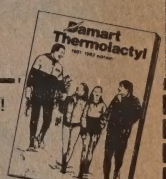

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SINKER BOUNCING

SEPTEMBER FLUKE

by Matt Ahern

A veteran sinker bouncer I knew in the long ago gave me a bit of shrewd advice. I learned something that beautiful mid-September afternoon as we strolled the water's edge of a now deserted Rockaway beach, something that has remained with me all my fishing life.

And it fit the occasion.

Except for the raucous cries of distant wheeling gulls and the soft wash of the surf underfoot, nothing stirred as we leisurely walked along, each deep in private thoughts. The remembered din of those multitudes of sun worshippers who had swarmed these golden sands only short days before failed to penetrate the serene landscape. On one of the distant rock groins, a fisherman stood silhouetted against a silver sea. It was a pastel scene only a true nature lover could enjoy.

The old-timer must have been affected too, for he turned to me and said in his righ Irish brogue: "Be happy that Labor Day has passed. Now, right now, is when smart fishermen get in their licks. 'Tis a golden opportunity we have, lad."

At the time, I hadn't enough fishing experience under my belt to fully understand or appreciate this astute observation; but I never forgot it. As the years passed, I discovered exactly what the old-timer meant: fishing becomes better when Labor Day has passed.

Certainly sea porgy fishing improves, and bulldog blackfish are in the process of taking over the ocean wrecks. Large sea bass are sure to share these rich feeding grounds for several more weeks. Some of the largest bluefish of the season put in an appearance; even elusive stripers choose this time of year for an occasional spurt of better fishing.

All sea life is gearing up for the great migration.

But what about fluke? Is this migration urge as intense? Yes; perhaps more so. Porgies and sea bass, for instance, may linger until early November, but fluke will be long gone by then. Right now, as you read this, many fluke have already deserted sheltered bays and creeks. Nature has subtly triggered the fluke's migrating instinct; they've been "told" to prepare for the long haul to the Continental Shelf. Time is certainly of the essence.

And there's no better place for this preparation than the waters surrounding ocean inlets. Here Nature has lavishly placed their source of food: sand eels by the million, multitudes of infant sea robins, blowfish, snappers, sea bass, blackfish—you name it; it is all there, all the life-sustaining sustenance needed by fluke and other sea predators.

I'll admit I hadn't thought too much about all this lately, and I'll admit too that with one thing and another my fluke-catching adventures this summer have left much to be desired. But I think there's a good chance this low score will change in a couple of weeks. I have one of my fishing buddies, Marine Sergeant Andy Peda of Hampton Bays, to thank for this.

Andy and I occasionally party boat fish together and we've racked up some impressive scores from time to time. Several weeks ago we were returning from an offshore trip for sea bass on the Capt. Clark II and as we approached Shinnecock Inlet, Andy turned to me and said, "look at that beautiful inlet; look at those beautiful beaches. There's just got to be fluke in this area."

And that's all it took to trigger remembrances of some wild ocean-inlet fluke fishing...all done during the month of September.

During late summer, I've fished for fluke in every South Shore inlet except the one at Moriches. Of these inlets—Rockaway, East Rockaway, Jones, Fire Island, and Shinnecock—I'd be sore pressed to tell you which is the better producer. They all have their days. There isn't one in which I've failed to reap a bonanza at one time or another.

By checking my records I can tell you which inlet produced the greatest single catch: Shinnecock. Just as my buddy Andy surmised. But far be it from me to lead you astray, so I'll tell you that Fire Island Inlet was only a few fish short of topping Shinnecock. And lest you think me a fish hog, I'd best not divulge Shinnecock's record catch, except to say that it was indeed substantial.

Not every day has the potential of a record-breaker, of course. I've spent hours drifting these areas and returned home mighty discouraged. But I can truthfully say I've never been skunked, although at one time I came as close as it is possible to come. One fish—and this a bare keeper. But all in all, I've had no complaints.

For this September inlet fishing, I modify my tackle just a bit: I change my 20 lb. test mono to 25. This is only a precaution. Only once did I suffer a sad occasion due to the use of the lighter line. And I suppose if Al Dunn hadn't slipped and taken a header during the excitement of netting an old socker of a doormat, I'd still be using that 20 lb. line. But forewarned is forearmed.

As for the rigging, I use the same hook (4/0 regular-shanked Sproat) as I do for all my inshore fluke fishing. I'm a great believer in using regular-shanked Sproats for fluke. Except for wreck fishing for doormats in late summer, I see no reason to use those heavy, cumbersome long-shanked Carlisle hooks many fishermen dote on—especially when using live killies for bait. My thought is: why anchor the bait with a heavy hook? What is needed when fluke fishing is bait with as much natural action as it is possible to get. The use of long-shanked hooks only defeats this purpose.

Incidentally, bait for this fishing is no great problem. Live killies, live snappers, strips of sea robin, squid, sand eels—all will produce, with the edge favoring killies, sea robin, and

snappers.

Nor is there any problem with correct leader length. I stick with the usual three footer; lengths shorter than this seem to affect the overall catch. Any length beyond is unnecessary. I use no flashers or other so-called attractors. Not only are they not needed in my estimation, but they also add to that unwanted hook weight. Keep it simple and catch fish has long been the bottom fisherman's motto.

Sinker weight never becomes a point of dispute when inlet fishing. I find a three ounce bank sinker will get by most days. On full moon tides, it may become necessary to increase this to five ounces. If conditions call for more than this, I pack it in and try to nail a fish or two inside the bay. Full moon tides, especially when coupled with a breeze, are just too much for good inlet fluke fishing.

As for tackle, I use exactly the same outfit as I do for inshore fluke. My conventional stick is a seven footer of medium weight. My reel is a Penn 155. Spinning tackle is okay if it is not too light. I say this because spinning gear that is too light will give difficulty when handling heavier than normal sinkers.

As to what area of an inlet is best, this is often a hit-or-miss deal—especially when it is a first attempt. Sometimes the ocean end will produce, sometimes it is only inside the inlet itself where fishing is best. On quiet days, I've taken my skiff as much as 300 yards off various inlets and caught all the fluke I've wanted. The governing factor is controlled by the movement of bait fish. It is often a case of here today, gone tomorrow. But have no fear, for if you fish any of our South Shore inlets during September, sooner or later you will find fluke.

Were I to fish an inlet for the first time tomorrow, I would certainly begin my first drift inside, yet not so far that I could not see the ocean and keep tabs on other close-by activity. If this failed, I would make my next drift closer to the ocean and continue until I found action. Depending upon weather and the type of boat, I would think twice before attempting to venture into the sea itself—no matter how glowing the report. Remember, the sea is unforgiving for those of us in small boats who become foolhardy. And besides, there's always tomorrow.

The opportunity to try some of this inlet fluke fishing will soon be on tap. I find the best time is from the tenth of the month until the third week, the peak reaching about mid-point. If the weather holds up (and at times this can become a big "if"), I'd think about giving it a try.

Anyway, I hope you give September fluke a thought. If you do, you are sure to discover, as I did, that it is after Labor Day when smart fishermen get in their licks....which is exactly what that old-timer said. He knew.

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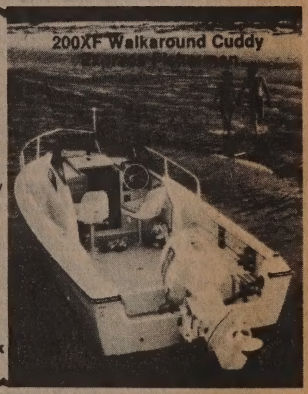

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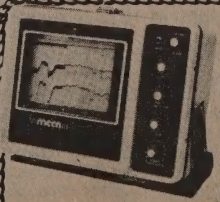

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SURF FISHING

CHANGING HABITS

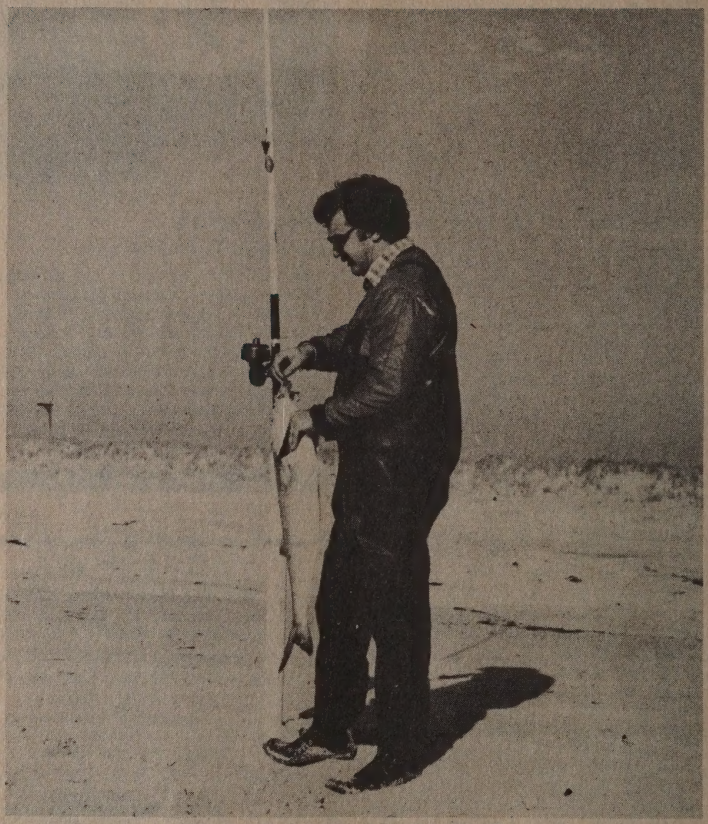
by John Fritz

Remember the good old days before the free-wheeling bluefish became educated and ceased hitting surface plugs? Early morning sessions with these easily satisfied choppers would provide many hours of rousing action for shore-bound anglers plus ringing cash registers for tackle dealers. Popping plugs skipped across the water's surface would suddenly disappear in an eruption of spray as a frenzied blue bolted from the depths to seize the suspected prey. Unfortunately this type of fishing has diminished to a point where a surfman fortunate enough to encounter a school of surface feeding bluefish can consider himself lucky indeed.

It is debatable whether the reason for this change of habit is a variation in the species of baitfish prevalent along our shores or a general decline in the overall bluefish population, resulting in less competition and fewer numbers of fish on our coast. Whatever the cause, it does little to placate the surfmen who must forsake an exhilarating method of fishing and seek an alternate means to success. One such possibility, which is practiced with satisfying results on the north shore of Long Island, is to fish bottom using chunks of bunker to entice those reluctant bluefish sulking in the depths. Although this type of fishing does not appeal to everyone, the periods of inactivity are often rewarded by engaging in a no-quarter battle with teen-sized blues.

Even though the schools of bluefish make their appearance in the Sound during the latter part of May, it will take about two months for them to settle into their summer routine. By then, the schools of bunker are located and the blues take up residence in close proximity, assured of a reliable source of food. On occasion, excellent fishing can be had deep within the north shore harbors during the early morning hours when the bunker are preyed upon by these monster blues. All too often, though, the assembled boatmen leave little opening for the shore-bound angler to take part in the action. Rather than dwell on this aspect of north shore bunker fishing, I'll describe a few thoughts on fishing bunker on the open beaches of Long Island Sound.

During the summer months this fishing is confined mostly to the hours of darkness, but after a few autumn storms have chilled the water, fishing during the day can be just as rewarding. The use of lanterns as an aid in illuminating the rods on dark nights is not advised by veteran north shore surfmen. This is especially important when fishing on a calm windless night in relatively shallow water.



This big blue fell to a bunker chunk.

For the most part the angle of the beach along the Sound shore declines rapidly from the high tide mark to the low water line. Thereafter the downward slope becomes gradual. In some areas it is possible to wade a considerable distance off the beach at low tide before deep water is reached. At the lower stages of the tide, particularly when water clarity is excellent, a brilliant light will prevent wary game fish from venturing near the shore. Although a flood tide is favored on certain beaches, areas adjacent to inlets or harbor mouths produce better results on the latter stages of the ebbing tide. On other beaches, such as Crabmeadow, access to an offshore bar can only be gained after the water level has dropped several feet.

In most cases winds from a northerly direction will blow onto the beach in this section of Long Island. During the fall months, in areas where the bottom sediment is not readily disturbed, a wind from this direction is preferred. The well-known theory of onshore winds pushing the bait closer to the beach is reason for this preference. During summer nights, gentle breezes or southerly winds are sought, for under such conditions the bunker schools are

more apt to leave the shelter of the harbors and venture into the open waters of the Sound.

In most cases waders are not necessary when bottom fishing on this shore unless access to an offshore bar is desired. Short rubber boots are sufficient, particularly on those occasions when little wave action is encountered.

Contrary to what is most often used to fish bottom on the north shore, the rod and reel employed when seeking teen sized bluefish should be substantial. Rods of ten or eleven foot lengths equipped with reels similar to the Penn 704 and spooled with good quality fifteen or twenty pound test line is chosen by anglers engaged in fishing of this type. Although the weight of the sinker is not as great as that which is needed on the south shore, a large chunk of bunker will require an outfit with sufficient backbone to make those necessary lengthy casts. One can be certain that the size fish most likely to be encountered will put any reasonable tackle through a serious test.

Wire leaders are a must when bait fishing for these giant choppers. Occasionally you will hear that 60 or 80 pound test mono will suffice, but I find this hard to believe when in several instances I've had plastic coated wire torn apart by these toothsome creatures. Most of the time I will begin the night by using forty pound test plastic coated wire, but when too many fish are lost to broken leaders, the switch to piano wire is quickly made. These latter rigs are fashioned beforehand and consist of a 5/0 stainless steel Siwash hook attached to a three or four inch length of bronzed piano wire. The rig initially used to begin a night's fishing is made with a similar grade hook from which an eight to ten inch, 40 lb. test nylon coated wire leader is connected by means of forming a loop in the wire secured in place by the appropriate sized sleeves. Before the loop is formed, the wire is forced through the center hole of a red fluorescent oval cork. When fishing with bunker chunks, the larger sized corks, measuring 2''x1'', are normally used. The opposite loop can be attached directly to the snap at the end of the line or a 12'' length of 40 lb. test mono can be used to increase the overall reach of the leader. Whichever hook setup is preferred, several rigs should be fashioned ahead of time, so that a replacement is readily available should a leader be destroyed or a deeply set hook prove to be difficult to remove from a struggling fish. Since a fishfinder rig is almost universally used in this type fishing, it is but a simple matter to disconnect the damaged leader and clip a new one in its place, allowing little time to elapse before a freshly baited hook is once again in the water.

Pyramid sinkers weighing 3 to 4 oz. will suffice on most of the north shore beaches, but where stronger currents are encountered an additional ounce or two must be added. In areas heavily infested with rocks the pencil type sinker will greatly reduce the tendency of the rig to become snagged in the bottom.

Chunks of bunker are the overwhelming choice of bait when seeking north shore choppers. Ideally the use of fresh, not previously frozen, bunker will produce the best results, but a dependable supply of fresh bait is not always available. Frozen bunkers should be kept frozen until ready to use and bunker which has been thawed and frozen a second or third time loses much of its appeal. It is therefore advisable to take only as much bait as deemed necessary for that outing and try to prevent premature thawing by wrapping it in several layers of newspaper. Of course, if one wishes to lug a small cooler along, the bait can be kept on ice, simplifying matters considerably especially on hot sultry nights.

Anglers fishing the inner harbors are frequently able to snag fresh bunker on the spot; unfortunately, this occurrence is rare on the open waters of the Sound. When such opportunities present themselves, live bunker, rigged with a single treble hook through the back and slung as far off the beach as possible will provide the best bait of all. If this is not practical, with the equipment on hand, chunks of freshly caught bunker will leach its juices into the water attracting any bluefish in the area.

Many anglers have a preconceived notion that teen blues, because of their hard fighting reputation, will savagely strike at any bait providing the bottom fisherman with an obvious indication of a strike. To the contrary, on many nights these fish will toy with the bait or gently mouth the chunk of bunker in an apparent attempt at finding something amiss. Therefore constant attention should be given to the rod or missed opportunities will result. When a fish is obviously toying with the bait a premature attempt at setting the hook will result in a missed hook-up. It is better to wait, with the rod in hand and tip pointed towards the water, until a strong pull is detected before trying to set the hook. If the strike fails, reel in the slack but let the bait remain motionless for several minutes before retrieving the line completely, for in many instances the fish will follow and make another grab at the bait.

It seems that quality game fish are increasingly hard to come by. Former methods used with gratifying results fail to produce. Although the populations of desired surf fish are thinned, sufficient numbers remain to provide rewarding outings if the angler is willing to alter his techniques to satisfy the changing habits of the remaining game fish.

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THOUGHTS ON BRIDGES

by Bob Whittier

Recently up in Maine, a large schooner misjudged its approach to the main archway of a bridge. Current caught it and swept it sideways toward low trusswork to one side of the arch. The masts struck the trusswork and stopped, while at the same time, the current continued to push strongly against the broadside of the hull. The craft rolled, took water aboard over the rails and sank.

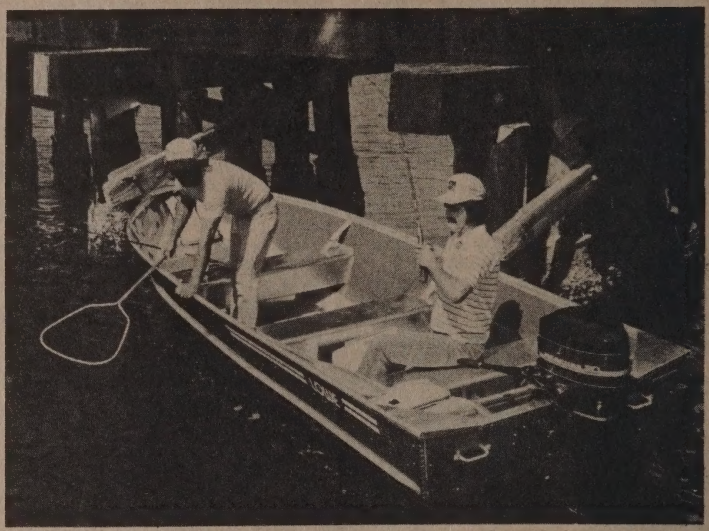
This incident highlights an interesting point. Motorists tend to take bridges for granted. Being motorists also—and for the most part doing more motoring than boating—most pleasure boat operators also tend to give rather scant thought to bridges. They're just something to drive over or cruise under, period!

But once a spectacular mishap such as the above-mentioned one takes place, one's thoughts about bridges can become more serious. The more one goes boating the more one comes eventually to realize that as far as the small boat skipper is concerned, bridges are not to be given but scant thought.

Bridges come in many sizes and shapes. This may sound like a pat statement, but it isn't. Bridges built over large rivers and canals that have always carried a lot of marine traffic main spans or arches high and wide enough for large ships to pass under easily. Those built where there is insignificant marine traffic—such as up creeks where only outboards go—tend to be trestles with no real arches or spans in them meant for boat passage. In-between these extremes one finds that bridge design varies widely.

The huge piers that serve as foundations for the towers of big bridges can create considerable turbulence, especially on the downstream sides, when the tide is flowing strongly. A situation can exist where large boats happen to be passing under such a bridge so as to oblige smaller ones to give them plenty of clearance. This means the smaller boats can find themselves being "mousetrapped" between the wakes of the ships and the areas of turbulence near large bridge piers. The small boat skipper who is alert to the possibility of this kind of thing can plan ahead and not be taken by surprise when his boat suddenly starts doing a bucking bronco act.

Consider now smaller bridges having a central archway for marine traffic. Considering what the rules of the road say, one might assume oneself to be doing the right thing by heading for the right-hand half of the water space below the span. But it's worth remembering that some day, a large yacht or commercial boat might be coming from the other direction, and because of its bulk it will head for the central part of the passageway to assure itself of ample clearance between the piers. If you go zooming toward the bridge at the same time, your boat might get a slimming down job done to it, between the big fellow's hull and the bridge pier!



Bridges attract both fish and fishermen. The wise boat operator uses extra alertness at all times when in their vicinity.

For this and many other reasons it's well to reduce speed when approaching a passageway under a bridge and keep a sharp lookout for traffic approaching from the other direction.

If you're going with a strong tide while approaching a bridge, remember that even if you cut the throttle to dead slow idle, a current flowing along at four or five knots can still carry you quite involuntarily into some kind of awkward situation. On the other hand, if you are going against the current, you can throttle back to a fast idle and approach the arch at a dead slow creep if you wish. Very much different from the way things are when approaching a bridge in a car!

Marinas, launching ramps and boat liveries tend to be built close to the highways that pass over bridges. When approaching a bridge, it is not enough to be able to see through the archway and ascertain that the channel beyond is clear. You must remember also that a boat may suddenly appear from the left or right of the arch, having just shoved off from a marina on the far side of the bridge.

Long trestles are fish-attractors. Marine growth on their piles attract small fish, which, in turn, attract larger ones. Always be very much on the lookout for fishing activity from a trestle or causeway you are approaching. It's no fun to connect with an umbrella rig or heavy sinker coming down hard from above as you pass under!

One can find the fishing to be quite good when trolling back and forth along a longer trestle. But remember that kids in speedboats can come hurtling through any of the many passageways under such a structure. While trolling, you have to keep an eye and an ear cocked for boats that are approaching and just might dart under the bridge right where you are cruising along its length. It wouldn't hurt to have a freon-powered foghorn where you can grab it in a hurry.

THE FISHERMAN'S READERS SURVEY

Here at The Fisherman, it's time again for us to evaluate the changes which have taken place in the sport. You, as a reader, can help us to better understand your interests in fishing, equipment, and conservation issues by filling out the questionaire below. *All information* will be kept strictly confidential. What *you* want means a lot to The Fisherman Staff, so please take just a few minutes to help us give you a better magazine. Also, by returning the questionaire, you become eligible for our reader survey *prize drawing.* Two reader's names will be drawn and each will receive a matched rod and reel outfit.

1. What is your age?.....

2. How long have you been fishing?.....

3. What is your occupation?.....
.....

4. Your approximate yearly income level;
☐ less than $10,000
☐ $10,000 to $15,000
☐ $15,000 to $20,000
☐ $20,000 to $30,000
☐ over $30,000

5. What is your favorite type of fishing?
☐ Inshore-Bottom
☐ Inshore-Other
☐ Offshore
☐ Surf
☐ Freshwater

6. Where do you do most of your fishing?
☐ Open Boat
☐ Charter Boat
☐ Rental Skiff
☐ Own Boat
☐ Surf, Jetty
☐ Pier
☐ Lake or Stream

7. Do you fish both fresh and salt water?
..... % Fresh .....% Salt

8. What are your three favorite species?
.....
.....
.....

9. Approximately how many days a year do you fish? (Please list by month)
.....Jan .....May..... Sept
.....Feb.....Jun ..... Oct
.....Mar.....Jul ..... Nov
.....Apr .....Aug..... Dec
Total: .....

10. What is the average length (in hours) of each trip?.....

11. How much do you spend on each trip (approximate) for items such as gas, bait, ice, food, tackle, boat rental? .....
.....

12. How much did you spend on fishing in 1980? (Include such costs as boat maintenance, insurance, beach buggy maintenance, new equipment, per trip costs, etc.)
$.....

13. Do you make at least one out-of state fishing trip a season?.....
Where? .....

14. How many rod and reel outfits do you own?
Conventional.....
Spinning .....
Fly.....
Baitcasting.....
Spincasting .....
Total.....

15. Do you own a boat?.....

16. If so, what size category does it fit into:
☐ 16' or under
☐ 17' to 23'
☐ 24' to 30'
☐ Over 30'

17. Do you intend to purchase a boat in the next 12 months?
☐ Yes ☐ No

18. If yes, what size category?
☐ 16' or under
☐ 17' to 23'
☐ 24' to 30'
☐ Over 30'

19. What type of power?
☐ Outboard
☐ Inboard/Outboard
☐ Inboard

20. If a boat owner, is your boat equipped with:
☐ C.B.
☐ V.H.F.
☐ Flasher
☐ Recorder
☐ R.D.F.
☐ Loran
☐ Radar
☐ Water Temp. Gauge

21. Are you planning any major electronics purchases in the next 12 months?
☐ Yes ☐ No

22. Do you trailer your boat?
☐ Yes ☐ No

23. Did the cost of fuel result in a reduction in the number of

(Continued on next page.)

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trips you made last year?
☐ Yes ☐ No

24. If yes:
☐ 10% less
☐ 25% less
☐ 50% less
☐ More than 50%

25. Is your boat used primarily for fishing?
☐ Yes ☐ No

26. Do you own a specialized vehicle? (i.e. camper, or beach buggy)
☐ Yes ☐ No

27. What type of articles do you like most? (check 2)
☐ How to make things
☐ Local where to go
☐ Travel
☐ Surf Fishing
☐ Bottom Fishing
☐ Offshore-Big Game
☐ Political
☐ Boating
☐ Fish Cookery
☐ Casting
☐ Trolling
☐ Party Boat Fishing
☐ Light Tackle
☐ Fresh Water
☐ Marine Environment
☐ Interviews
☐ Salt Water Flyrodding

28. Which of the above subjects would you like to see expanded coverage of? .....
.....
.....

29. What geographical area do you think needs expanded coverage?.....
.....

30. What, in the contents of The Fisherman, most appeals to you? (check one)
☐ Tide Tables
☐ Classified Ads
☐ Fishing Reports
☐ Feature Articles
☐ Editorials
☐ Weekly Column
Name of column.....

31. What do you view as the most serious threat to recreational angling? (check one)
☐ Destruction of Habitat
☐ Chemical Pollution
☐ Oil Drilling
☐ Commercial Fishing
☐ Sport Fishing
☐ Other .....

32. Do you ever sell any part of your catch?
☐ Yes ☐ No

33. Do you feel rod & reel fishermen who sell their catch should be commercially licensed?
☐ Yes ☐ No

34. Where do you think funding for marine research, launching ramps, fishing piers, reefs, etc. should come from?
☐ D.J. Tax
☐ Salt Water License
☐ Gasoline (Fuel) Tax
☐ State General Fund
☐ Boat Registration Fees
☐ Conservation Issue Stamps

35. Are you opposed to catch limits being imposed on recreational anglers?
☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes, enter me in the drawing for a matched rod & reel outfit!

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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FRESH TUNA RECIPE:

TUNA SICILIANO

by Frank Scalabrino

EDITOR'S NOTE: With Long Island anglers enjoying a banner offshore season, many of our readers have contacted us in search of ways to prepare fresh tuna. Frank Scalabrino, owner and chef of "The Skipper" in Rockville Centre, came to our rescue with this great sounding dish.

The recipe that I am about to give you is one which I learned by watching my Italian grandmother work so diligently over the stove to create. This masterpiece will give everyone a new outlook on freshly caught tuna. First, whenever possible try to gaff tuna in the upper part of the body or gills to avoid ruining precious meat. Either tail rope or place tuna in a large can aboard the boat until dead. Make small incision beneath the throat area and gut the tuna. When dockside, cut off the head, scale and cut into one inch steaks. Now, we are ready for what I call "Tuna Steak Siciliano."

INGREDIENTS:
3 lbs. tuna steak
1 qt. stewed tomatoes
2 tblsp. crushed garlic
2 whole med. onions
1 green or red pepper, chopped
1 cup flour
1 cup red wine vinegar
1 tsp. oregano (optional-basilico)
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup olive oil
2 cups water

Add a pinch of salt and pepper to your cup of flour and lightly flour tuna on both sides. Pan fry tuna on both sides in hot oil for one minute. Remove tuna and drain on towel.

SAUCE:
Saute garlic, onions (sliced), and peppers in 1/2 cup olive oil for 5 minutes. Add stewed tomatoes, vinegar, salt and pepper, spices and 2 cups of water. Stir and simmer for five minutes.

Place tuna steaks into a 2" baking pan. Add your sauce and marinate in refrigerator overnight or for a minimum of four hours. Place tuna in oven covered with aluminum foil at 400° for twenty minutes or until fork pierces tuna easily.

Serve with yellow rice and peas. Bon apetito.

A 40 lb. yellowfin is steaked in preparation for "Tuna Siciliano."

LIGHT SPINNING EQUALS LOTS OF FUN

by Einar F. Grell

Do you want to get more fun and excitement out of your fishing? If the answer is "yes," then I suggest that you give light tackle spinning a serious effort. When you catch a large fish on light spin tackle you will have really accomplished something and can take great pride in the catch. My happiest moments have occurred in catching tiderunner weakfish and an 18 lb. "World Record" fluke on 6 lb. test line. These are the basic tools of the trade which you will need for pursuing such species as flounder, striped bass, bonito, dolphin, weaks, bluefish, small tuna and even sharks. Light spinning can be practiced from docks, bridges, banks, or boats. An expensive operation is not involved. You probably have several light tackle reels in your home just waiting to be activated. Most light spin reels have gear ratios of 4-1, bronze gears, stainless steel components, shielded ball bearings and hold approximately 225 to 250 yards of 6 to 8 lb. mono. Make sure that your reel capacity is no less than 200 yds. A 6' to 7' light spin rod with a fast taper action will round out your outfit.

Purchase line of the "hard" variety rather than that of the "limp" type for the simple reason that the hard variety has greater elasticity and stretch. The limp type gives you a little greater casting range, but tends to abrade much faster from the wear and tear of saltwater fishing.

Confine your light tackle spinning to 6 and 8 lb. test mono. Never overtax your reel with heavier tested line, for this cuts down tremendously on your overall reel capacity. Many beginners tend to overload their reels and thus do not have sufficient line available for long runs made by large fish. Remember in light spinning that you will always have the problem of line fatigue which is caused by constant stretching, water friction and constant exposure of line to the elements such as ultraviolet rays and the heat of the sun. If your line does not spring back to its original shape after a fish has been caught or breaks off at a fraction of its tested capacity, get rid of it. Purchase a spring scale and note carefully at which poundage the line breaks. After catching a large fish don't be stingy. Cut back about ten feet of your line. By all means do not fish with old, brittle line. Check your line constantly for nicks and frays.

How big a fish can I catch on light line?

If you are using 6 lb. test you should have little difficulty in catching 9 to 10 lb. fish. When you become proficient you should be able to catch fish three times the tested weight of the line. The rule of thumb for light spinning is in the ratio of 1½ to 2 times the weight of fish for test strength of line. With minimum proficiency you should be able to catch most species found in inshore Long Island waters.

Tricks of the trade in spinning.

Determine which hand is your strongest. This hand will hold the rod. The most effective grip is that which places two fingers ahead and two behind the reel foot with the thumb on the opposite side. Your forearm of the strong arm will be employed to brace the rod butt while fighting the fish. Turning the reel handle will be done by your weaker hand. Remember that in light tackle spinning, it is what you do with the rod which determines 90% of your fishing success.

Prior to making your first cast, the drag or reel brake should be adjusted in such a manner that when you have a large fish on, the drag allows line to slip from the spool whenever the fish exerts pressure that might snap the line on a direct pull. If your drag is set correctly it is theoretically impossible for a fish to break the line.

When you hook up with a fish after casting and he begins to take out line, the water friction factor comes into play. The faster he travels the greater

the water friction. With decreasing spool diameter you have a tension problem which must be taken care of. What do you do? You must gradually loosen up on the reel brake. This is just the opposite procedure of what nervous anglers do. Filled with excitement, they tighten up on the drag with a resulting ping signaling the breaking of line and loss of fish. This procedure cannot be over-emphasized and is undoubtedly the real reason for the loss of a big fish while the angler is busy cursing his equipment. On long running fish, I loosen up the drag when approximately 50 yds. of line are gone. Once the fish is stopped, you now have the opportunity to win back lost line and can gradually increase the drag pressure to what it was originally. You will have to develop a "feel" which only comes with experience.

In the heat of battle, additional pressure may be placed on the reel spool with your fingers. Place one fingertip on the upper spool flange while you cup the entire spool in your reel hand. Pressure of fingertip is adjusted accordingly in conjunction with drag setting. When applying finger pressure to reel, do it gradually.

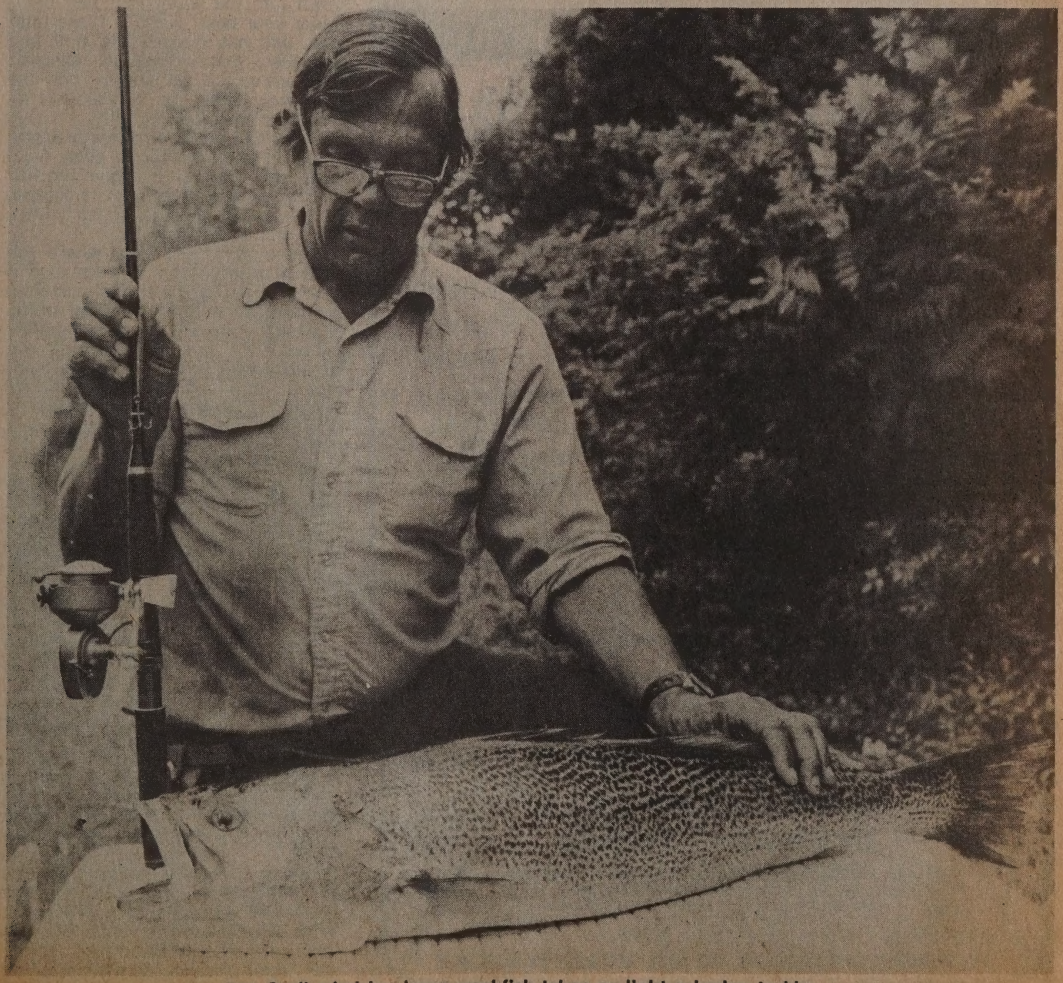
In setting your hook into a fish, all that is required is a firm, upward flex of the rod when the line tightens. With surgically sharp hooks you should have no trouble in setting the hook. If a fish is running with a bait, I would wait several seconds until he has stopped before setting the hook. Oftentimes if the fish is swimming away with your bait he isn't really hooked. He is only mouthing it. A firm upward flex at this point will pull the hook away before he has a chance to swallow it.

When the fish appears firmly hooked, your rod butt should be perpendicular to the pull of the fish. In this manner, the spring of the rod is constantly working against the fish and helping to cushion your line against breakage from sudden pulls and jerks. Do not point the rod at the fish since this puts all the strain on the line with very little strain on the fish. You lose fish this way. With the rod in correct fighting position you can always drop the tip to provide the necessary slack in case of a sudden lunge.

Spinning the reel handle or cranking on the reel while the drag is slipping is a complete waste of time and energy resulting in a horrible coiling and twisting of line when tension is released. Remember for each revolution of the pickup, one unwanted twist is given to the line. If you spin the handle 50 to 100 times you have that many twists in your line. It is this twisted line which gets hung-up on rod tips, guides, and the spool itself when casting. Twisted line also results in weakened line as well as losing lures. This habit must be eliminated if you are to make the grade as a light tackle spin fisherman.

The only purpose of the reel is to

(Continued on next page.)



Doc Grell admiring large weakfish taken on light spinning tackle.

recover and store slack line. Line is recovered by the pumping process which involves leaning back on the rod to pull the fish toward you. You drop the rod tip rapidly, gaining a little slack line and with the reel crank in the slack line. Continue this process until the fish is alongside the boat. When pumping, the drag should not slip on the upstroke of the pumping motion. You can now see why a rod with a sturdy butt and flexible tip is essential to this type of fishing. Stay away from swishy broomstick rods with no backbone in the middle and butt sections.

It is inevitable, in catching large fish on spin tackle, that the mysterious phenomenon known as line twist will appear. The problem can and must be eliminated immediately by paying out your line into the current from an anchored or moving boat. If you are on the beach, string out the twisted line and reel it back while gripping it lightly between thumb and forefinger.

Use improved clinch knots when tying lures and do not skimp on the required five turns. If you are splicing lines of equal diameter use an improved blood knot. Lines of unequal diameter when spliced require the Stu Apte knot. When catching big fish on light line, especially when the lure is tied directly to your line, requires re-tying of the lure after each catch...if you are smart.

When making leaders, make them at least as long as the species of fish you expect to catch. This affords you considerable advantage in boating a fish. Remember the closer to the boat the fish is, the greater chance of the line rubbing against his skin. You can always count on the following happening when you hook up with a big fish on spin tackle: weakening line, weakening knots, and more time for Acts of God such as fish heading for the propeller or boat bottom to occur. What do you do? Plunge your rod down into the water if a fish dives under your boat. Keep it there until your line has cleared the hull and propeller. Sometimes, by exerting pressure on the rod, you can tow the fish away from the obstruction by lifting on your rod.

If a small shark or other predator wants to take your prize away from you, open your bail and give the fish all the line that it requires to escape. Forget about catching a fish with a large chunk bitten out.

Employ light spin gear where you have plenty of room. Do not use it where there are strong currents, obstructions, and a lot of boat traffic or where there are too many anglers present. If you are shoulder to shoulder with other spin fishermen, you do not have enough room for working a big fish into an exhausted state. Do not employ on party boats unless you have an okay from the captain and other anglers.

Do not be in too great a hurry to land fish that have not yet begun to fight. Employ your angling skills and have fun. It is a shame to lose a prize fish close to the boat because you were in too great a hurry or because the fish was "green" and still full of pep.

Most important. Keep your equipment in excellent condition, making sure that your reel is free of saltwater and dirt. Pay particular attention to your drag, being doubly sure that it works as smoothly as it can. If it needs washers, replace them. Be a stickler for all the little things that can go wrong such as little nicks on your guides, dull hooks which should be surgically sharpened, line frays...you name it!

Again, more and more fishermen are going the light spin tackle route for greater enjoyment in fishing on Long Island waters. Why not join them. The challenges are as varied and great as the species of fish awaiting your pleasure.

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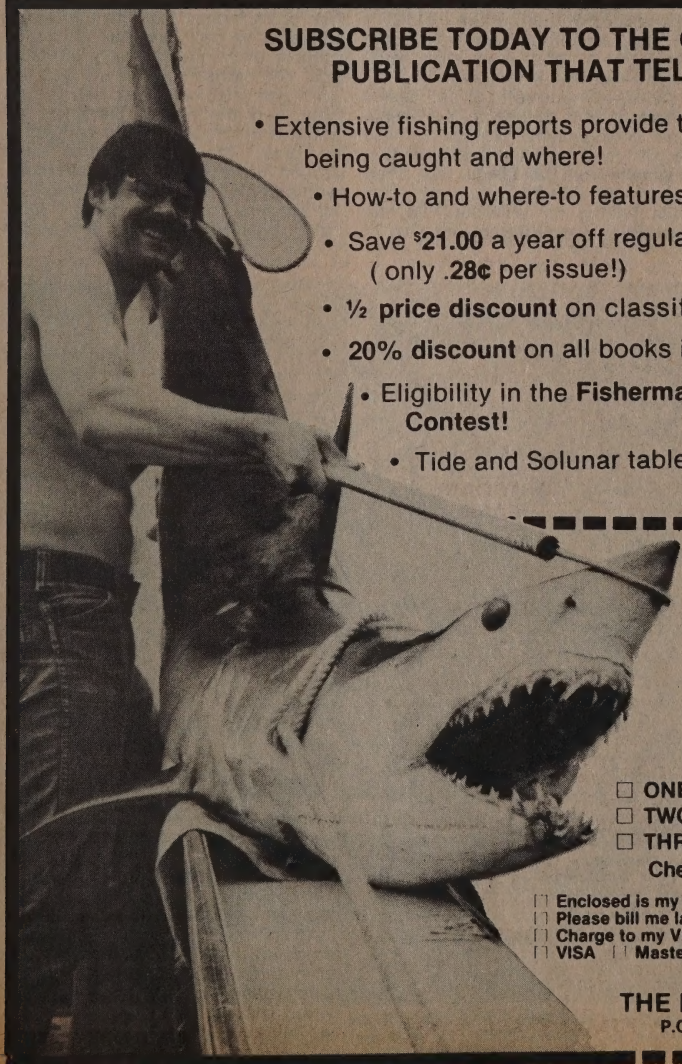

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ON THE MARKET:

SALT WATER LURES

Part One — *by Al Ristori*

As is the case every year, there are lots of new saltwater lures on the market this season. Indeed, it's rather difficult to track down all of those made in this area, let alone nationally. However, I'll do the best I can with the info at hand and will welcome information from anyone I miss for inclusion in a future article.

Since the number of companies I'm dealing with isn't as great as in the freshwater section of the lure report, I'll group the various products into broad lure categories (such as diamond jigs, umbrella rigs, etc.), rather than going company by company. Addresses will be found at the end of the article.

DIAMOND JIGS.

Artie Frey changed the course of the diamond jig industry several years ago by producing his jigs the way smart anglers had been altering them for years. Instead of a treble hook attached to the end of the jig, Artie used a swivel holding a single hook on his Ava jigs. The fish get hooked just as well on this arrangement (though fewer are snagged) and they can't get the leverage needed to twist free. In addition, this rigging is easy to remove from toothy jaws and rarely gets hooked in the bottom. It didn't take long for competitors to copy this arrangement, and now most local anglers fish with such lures.

Strangely enough, West Coast fishermen still stick with the treble hook arrangement. While in New Zealand recently, I watched a captain (originally from San Diego) lose three jigs in the bottom within an hour while fishing for yellowtail. In the meantime, I was using the one Ava 27 I brought with me to catch yellowtail and trevally—and still had it to give away when I left!

While Artie Frey was the first to market diamond jigs with the single hook arrangement, there's now plenty of competition in that field. It took the biggest jig-maker of them all, Bridgeport, a while to come around. However, Pete Renkert has turned that outfit around from its traditional conservative path and has put out a number of unique and very effective jigs. The flattish sides of his Slab Jig work well when baby weakfish are the prey, and the Round Sand Eel jig imitates the most common baitfish in our area. The latter jig had been around for many years, but was made with a single hook embedded into it as an old-time surf "squidding" lure. Now rigged with a swivel and single

The sand eel is the dominant baitfish in our area these days (those in photo were spit up by a striper) and are imitated by the tubes used on umbrella rigs and such diamond jigs as the Ava 27 and Bridgeport Sand Eel.

swinging hook, it's become one of Bridgeport's best sellers. The Round Sand Eel doesn't sink as well as the standard jigs, so 6 and 8 oz. sizes have been added to the original 3¼ oz. version. Bridgeport also makes their famous diamond-shaped jig in both the single and treble hook arrangements, and has the treble-hooked Vi-Ke in sizes from 1/4 to 24 oz. The latter is a curved jig that is particularly popular with New England deep water cod and pollack fishermen. The most recent Bridgeport entry is the Wobble Eel, a flattish, scaled jig with a tube tail that can be trolled as well as jigged.

Ava's best known jigs are the Lucky 7 series. That series starts with the most popular model, the Ava 27 (3 oz.), and includes 4, 6, and 8 oz. versions. New 1 and 2 oz. models have been added this year, and also come in either plain hook or tube tail versions. From 8 oz., Ava jumps all the way to a 16 oz. model for deep water cod and pollack that comes rigged with either a single or treble hook. The new 1 and 2 oz. jigs should be good for weakfish in the bays, while the Ava 27 remains the best choice for deeper water under normal conditions. However, every serious angler should have a selection of fours and sixes along for windy days or strong current conditions. Weakfish also seem partial to the gold-plated Ava 27G, but Art Frey warns that the gold-plating won't stand up as well as his chrome plating does. The hottest new item in the Ava arsenal is the luminescent jig line. These jigs glow in the dark after being charged by sunlight or a flashlight, and proved very effective for night blues on the party boats last season. They also create greater attraction in the depths. I had good luck with them last year while jigging silk snappers in the 120' to 150' depths on Hannibal Bank off Coiba Island, Panama. As is the case with the regular jigs, the luminescent line also comes in either single hook, or the tube tail Banana Twist version. Two other unique Ava models are the De-May-O Sand Eel Jig (modeled after a lure created by famous Montauk skipper John DeMaio) and Ava-Eel—a sand eel jig with a split tube tail.

Tri-Fin has also become an important factor in diamond jigs during the past couple of years. The Teardrop model is ideally shaped for quick sinking, which enables the angler to use a slightly lighter jig under most conditions. Mickey Chiarenza, a noted angler in his own right, also has designed several uniquely shaped metal jigs. The Flatfish looks just like a butterfish and the Swimmer has a lot of action in the depths. Daiwa rep Lou Rosado was fishing at the Cartwright Grounds off Montauk one day last fall when the only lure the big blues would hit with consistency was Tri-Fin's black Sand Eel.

Vic Galgano is another well known fisherman who's successfully entered this field. His Spider diamonds come in regular and keeled versions, and his Banana Split (very popular for blues on Jersey party boats) consists of a plastic-covered jig and tube tail. A hot model this year is a scaled Spider Diamond. The scale finish gives off more glitter. Sizes range from 2 to 6 oz., and they come in either regular or tube tail versions.

Many other companies have gotten into the diamond jig business. M&M Tackle makes a sand eel-like single hook jig in Connecticut, and has come out with a line of curved George's Bank jigs (with treble hook) in six sizes from 10 to 34 oz. The George's Bank jig has heavy nickel plating on a hammered finish, and features holes drilled through the jig so there are no eyehooks to bend or break. S&G makes a good line of jigs in New Jersey, and Les Davis has come in from the West Coast with a really unique product. The Les Davis Attracto Jig features eight flashy, Scalite-on-chrome sides in models ranging from 6 to 20 oz.—plus a little two inch, 3/4 oz. version. Of course, the famous Hopkins can also be used as a bottom jigging lure, though the flat shape means a slower descent. That means a heavier lure must be used—and Hopkins came out with just the thing this year: a 6 oz. No-Eql.

UMBRELLA RIGS.

On Long Island, Captain John Sekora is the "king of umbrella rigs." I guess that's only fitting as the modern umbrella rig was first introduced at Montauk by Captain Gus Pitts and has spread from there. There's nothing very complicated about an umbrella rig, but it must be well made in order to stand up under the tremendous forces created by several blues or weakfish pulling in opposite directions. Most important is what goes on the end of the rig. In addition to his standard tubes, John Sekora has come up with the new Monkey Tail tubes. These slim tubes more nearly imitate the slender sand eel and swivel so freely that John claims they can be drifted back in the tide with success. They should be particularly good for rigging above diamond jigs when fishing for blues and weaks.

Many other companies are also into umbrella rigs. Mickey Chiarenza makes a fine line of Tri-Fin rigs, and J&B puts out both spreader frames and tubes that glow from their headquarters in Connecticut. Spider Rigs come with the tubes attached right to the rig, which is the way they're usually fished in New Jersey. Bead Chain Tackle Co. (Bridgeport) is a new entry in the tube field with the Tube Eel—rigged with Bead Chain at the hook eye for maximum action and no leader twist.

PLUGS.

The saltwater angler always has plenty to choose from in this area. Bob Pond is already famous for his Atom Swimmer, Reverse Atom, and Striper Swiper popper. This year he's come up with the Plug'n Jig, a 2 oz. combination of a hookless popper body ahead of a long brightly colored hair jig. This rig is designed so the jig is easily replaceable, and it has proven to be a real killer on bluefish. Bob Pond is now also using fluorescent colors on some of his plugs.

Stan Gibbs is still turning out such old reliables as the Pencil Popper, Polaris popper, Casting Swimmer ('bottle" plug—no metal lip), Darter (a favorite of night surfcasters at Montauk) and trolling swimmers. All of these lures are still made from wood—and some require over forty separate steps in manufacturing.

A firm making wooden lures is Barry Davis' Linesider operation in Lavallette, New Jersey. Barry puts out his versions of all the favorite types, including thru-wired Pencil Poppers. A couple of new items are the Tailwalker (a Pencil Popper without the belly hole and hook, but with added weight in the tail that makes it cast better than the regular Pencil Popper) and a new small popper. The Tailwalker can be worked with less tip action than a standard Pencil Popper and is a super lure for blues.

Cotton Cordell has quite a few fine saltwater plugs. Their plastic version of the Pencil Popper has produced many big cubera snappers for me at Club Pacifico de Panama, and I've done almost as well with the Near Nuthin' regular popper. The Cordell Red Fin is a hot minnow lure in all sizes, and the 2½ oz. 5500DD Striper Striker will dive as deep as 60' when trolled. The 1000 topwater and 1000DD Red Fins are made of the new Balsa Lite material. Also don't forget Th' Spot in saltwater. It looks just like a baby bunker and will catch a great variety of fish whether cast or trolled.

Luhr Jensen's J-Plug is made for salmon, but has really caught on with area striper experts. The big attraction of this lure is that it slides up the line when the fish is hooked, thus giving him no leverage with which to straighten out the hooks. Rather than using the skimpy hook rigging that comes with it, simply rig a heavy duty treble (such as a triple strength Mustad 5/0 or 6/0) on a swivel and tie your line to the swivel through the hole in the J-Plug.

Fred Arbogast has a new saltwater plug this year: the Prancer saltwater stick bait in 1 and 2¼ oz. sizes. That lure joins such favorites as the Dasher and Scudder (a wide-mouthed chugger that's very popular in Florida and the tropics).

Normark's Rapalas are killers on all types of saltwater predators. The metal-lipped CD-18 Magnum can be trolled at high speed (I know one angler who's caught yellowfin tuna with it in the canyon) and is one of the most effective large plugs I've ever come across.

Rebel has a big line of saltwater plugs that stand up nicely—even to bluefish. The famous Rebel minnows are effective in all sizes, and the big

(Continued on next page.)

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Super Rebel and Super Deep Rebel are specially rigged for stripers. A new striper plug is the Jumpin' Striper Minnow, a "walking" surface bait which comes only in the 1/3 oz. size and should be great for schoolies.

Bill Norman's Baltic Minnow and Jointed Minnow are also often used by saltwater anglers. This year he's brought out two saltwater plugs: the WW, Willie's Wobbler chugger and The Chunk, a lipped swimming lure with a rolling action that leaves a fish-attracting wake. Both are 2 oz. The Musky/Giant Shad and Jointed Giant Shad from Lindy-Little Joe may well prove effective as trolling lures for big stripers.

Whopper Stopper's Bayou Boogie comes in sizes up to the 3 oz. Salty Boogie—a fine-casting bunker imitation for big stripers. Heddon's Zara Spook is a favorite surface "walking" bait for snook, that's also good for schoolies. Glen L. Evan's 1/2 oz. See-Bee Minnow is ideal for saltwater use as it's made of virtually indestructible Cycolac.

Lazy Ike has taken over the Creek Chub line which includes such saltwater favorites as the Darter (great for tarpon and snook), Striper Strike popper, and the famous Pikie trolling plugs—among the most popular for big stripers. Bass Buster Lures is featuring the Shad Buster plug—1¼ oz. with a "flap-tail" blade at the tail.

Boone is introducing the Sundance Chugger, a mirror-sided popper made in 1 and 2 oz. sizes. These lures are made of urethane foam and feature swivels that are actually buried in the foam. The 3/4 oz. Zig-Zagger "walking" bait is a good bet for schoolies and the 1/2 oz. Needlefish is an old fall bass favorite in the central Jersey surf.

The L&S Mirrolure line is one of the very best plug lines in the world. Though the 52M series has little built-in action, a good angler can make those lures come alive and fool almost any predator. These are Florida favorites on snook, tarpon, and sea trout, but they're just as effective on blues, stripers and weaks. The Marine Metal Dalton Special surface plugs are still hand-crafted of choice white sugar pine and are also good schoolie lures.

Some of the best trolling plugs in the country are made in this area. The Danny is my personal favorite for trolling big bass, though a great many fish are lost as they twist on the plug and bend out the heavy trebles. Before the Danny came out I did very well with the Goo-Goo Eyes, and I've also heard good things about M&M's Big Jake. The latter company also makes a popper: the Chopper Popper. The Roberts Plug is another Connecticut-made plug that's gained quite a reputation. The Finnish Nilsmaster minnow plugs imported by Baystate Marketing are a good bet for schoolies in smaller sizes, while the 1¼ oz. 6½", 3500 Countdown Invincible series will handle the cows

BLACK SEABASS DECLINE

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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SEA BASS STATS PROVIDED BY THE *"UNDERWATER NATURALIST"* BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY.

Montauk Report

by Stu Miller

Charterboat **Montauk** called to state that his first Cartwright trip Thursday saw a super catch of gorilla bluefish totaling 116 fish from 15 to 18 lbs. taken on bait. The charter also had an 80 lb. brown shark. On Saturday 5 makos were taken up to 250 lbs. Acres of school tuna were spotted on the west bank of the Butterfish Hole and a good number were diamond jigged. On Sunday a charter had 25 school bluefin tunas from 25 to 30 lbs. plus a mako, a brown, 5 blue shark and a hammerhead. The 250 lb. mako was caught by Jersey angler Tom Ludenski. A few bass are being taken on eels at night at Great Eastern by bass hounds. Mike predicts there will be very good offshore fishing right through Sept.

Capt Bud Dorman's 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** reports that they have not missed yet in the porgy fishing. Bud says the jumbos are in the rips at the Lighthouse. The south side of the Point has been productive for well over a week now with good sized porgies, worms working best.

The **Viking Fleet** reports that the Cox's Ledge cod continues to be fabulous with solid catches of cod from 8 to 10 lbs. Sunday's pool fish ran 35 lbs. The half-day fluking trips conducted in the rips just north of the Point range from fair to good with very decent size flatties being picked. Porgy fishing is now picking up nicely at the Point. The bluefishing remains unreal and the word is that you can get all the blues you want of the biggest kind. A lot of action is at the Appletree and offshore at Cartwright with catches being made days and nights. A 64 lb. white shark was caught by Bill James of Brooklyn on one of the night bluefish trips. This week's report was given to us by Capt Seaman who runs the charterboat Mitchell III.

Fifteen-year-old John Butler made the catch of a lifetime when he whipped this 404 lb. swordfish in just 35 minutes. The young angler was aboard George Mihailidis' Andiamo. The big broadbill was taken during the night in Block Canyon. John's dad added a 226 lb. bigeye tuna to the catch. Both fish were weighed at Star Island Yacht Club.

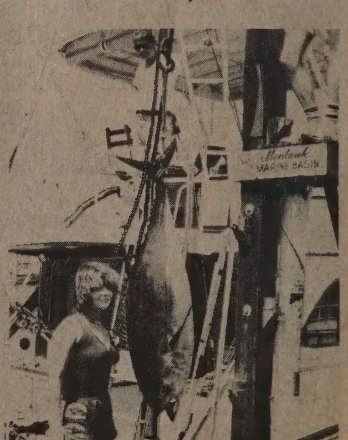
Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells us that the porgy fishing was very good Saturday and Sunday fihsing off New London CT. Fares averaged 25 to 50 porgies a man, fish up to 3 lbs. **Marlin Fleet** has also had super night bluefishing to the tune of 15 to 20 huge bluefish per man at Cartwright and Block Island. This is on herring baits though jigs are working also. The fluke trips have been fairly good on the half-day trips in North Rips. A few bigger fish are being caught now. Richie says call him and find out about his day/night combo special offer.

Charterboat **Nostalgia II** called to say that Saturday's trip for the Peterson's boys and Dave Scofield fished 40 Fathoms and trolled up a 66 lb. yellowfin tuna on a green machine.

Charterboat **Julie III** reports a charter led by George Acosta on Saturday caught over 450 lbs. of porgies up to 3 lbs. fishing Great Eastern and the south side using squid and clam bait. Sunday's charter for Louie Fernandez had over 800 lbs. of blues and 2 bonito plus 1 bluefin tuna fishing south of Block. Porgies and blues have been super these past few weeks.

Capt Gary of the charterboat **Barracuda** reports excellent offshore fishing with consistent catches of yellowfin tuna from 40 to 80 lbs., longfin albacore from 30 to 60 lbs., bluefin tuna from 20 to 90 lbs. This has all been on feathers. Sharking has been good for blue shark and makos.

Star Island Yacht Club reports that at the Canyon Saturday Stan Arkin on Gray Fox had 4 yellowfin tuna and a bigeye tuna that went over 350 lbs. This was on jetheads. The Aida had a 50 lb. wahoo Sunday. The boat Blue



Jacquelene Entenmann boated this 157 lb. yellowfin tuna aboard her dad's boat, Jacquelene. The big fish was weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

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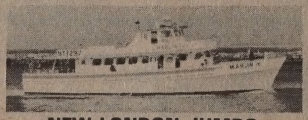

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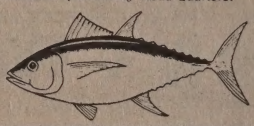
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Beard fishing south of Block Island had a 112 lb. mako. A 125 lb. mako was caught aboard the Margaret M. A good catch of fluke were taken from the North Rips aboard Friendship. Alex Levy on his boat Albatross Sunday took a white marlin. To find out what these fish were caught on, all Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club**. Also see their ad for details of their 2nd Annual Tuna Tournament coming up in early Sept.

Aboard Capt Keller's Bronco Explorer on an overnighter at the Canyon during the week, Ricky had a 450 to 500 lb. blue marlin which was tagged and released. The party also had a large catch of yellowfin tuna and true albacore.

Capt John DeMayo of the charterboat **Vivienne** called to say that his bluefishing has been consistent for a couple of weeks as long as he had half-way decent weather. It's been mostly blues with anywhere from 10 to 40 percent of the catch being weakfish up to 11 lbs. Blues are up to 10 lbs. with the boat working the SW Ledge area. Friday's charter of 3 men had 100 fish, mainly blues. Blues are running 7 to 10 lbs. and weaks 8 to 10 lbs., all on diamond jigs in about 70' of water. ''Very good and very consistent'' says the skipper. His parties are trying for the weaks which are underneath the blues. The blues are so thick that many times the jig just won't get through them as they grab on the way down.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports Sunday's charter for the Brian Fasani group had 2 70 lb. yellowfin tuna and 6 bluefin tuna in 25 to 30 lb. class plus a catch of bonito. At one point, a 70 lb. yellowfin and a 40 lb. bluefin were brought in on one rig, with the bluefin being tail-hooked. The inshore bluefishing remains good at Southwest Ledge. A trip for Richie Yonkers resulted in over 50 bluefish being boated.

Sixteen big cod to 48 lbs. taken on Ava jig and Sekora tube combos by Charlie, Tommy, Bob and Don aboard the Montauk charter boat 'Vivienne.''

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

HAMPTON BAYS

John said that despite this past week's weather fluke fishing continued very good, with the average catch per angler being 4 to 6 keepers. Spearing, killies and squid have been working better than sand eels on the flatfish. Hottest fishing has been in the East and West Cut on incoming water and in the cove at the Coast Guard Station on the first park of the ebb. One out of two fish are keepers. John noted also that there are plenty of snappers in the area.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported that fluking on Saturday was pretty good, but poor on Sunday. Going back to Friday, Jim Christo, Dan Winchcombe and Lou Boccia all pressmen for the Daily News, totalled 25 keepers on spearing, sand eels and squid in the Elbow area. On Saturday, Matt and John Viol returned with 33 keepers taken between the Elbow and the Inlet. They returned on Sunday loaded up with 70 blue claw crabs taken from the creeks in and around the station. Jim noted that the best crabbing has been with rings rather than traps. Lot of small blues scattered around the Bay and a few weaks taken accidentally by fluke fishermen this past week.

Jack at **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** said fluking has been holding up very well with the last 3 hours of incoming and the last 2 hours of the ebb producing the best action on the flats behind buoy 29 and in both the East and West cuts. Good crabbing in Forge River and loads of snappers all over the area. Private boatmen did well with 3-4 lb. blues just outside the inlet on Sunday.

From **Hi-Way Fishing Station** Al said the best fluking has been at the inlet during the last half of incoming water. Fishing has been steadily improving since Thursday's blow with quite a few shorts still being taken. Flounder are still around noted Al. On Wednesday, Charles King and a friend filled 3 pails of flounder fishing at buoy 32. Flatties can also be found at buoys 36 and 39. Of the crabbing, Al said it had been very good before the storm and he expects it to settle back to the same pace shortly.

MASTIC BEACH

From **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station** Harry was enthusiastic about the good crabbing being found from buoy

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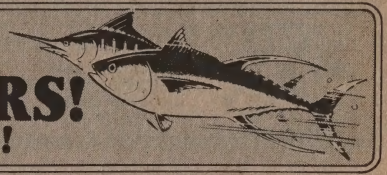

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Mr. & Mrs. Kukenis with their catch of 23 fluke to 3 lbs. made at buoy 41 in Moriches Bay on sand eel/squid combos. They fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

17 to the bridge. Blue claws are good sized and being taken on both traps and on rings. Lots of snappers spread throughout the area. Fluke fishing pretty good between buoy 17 and the bridge with 70 percent of the fish being keepers. A few weaks are mixed with the fluke and spearing has had the edge in the bait department.

At **Stiriz Fishing Station** Bill said they were surprised this past week by a good showing of nice sized blowfish. Many boats had 30-40 of the puffers fishing in the buoys 9 and 10 area. Snapper blues from 1/2 to 1 lb. in good supply from buoy 19 to the bridge on spearing. Nice fishing for fluke between buoys 23 and 30, with some boats returning with up to 20 keepers up to 3½ lbs. on spearing, sand eels and squid. Crabbing has slowed in recent days but should improve said Bill.

SAYVILLE

Fred at **Formato's Fishing Station** said they have been enjoying some nice fishing with 2-3 lb. weaks, kingfish and good sized blowfish. Buoy 5 at Nichols Point and midway across the bay from Browns River have been 2 of the better producing spots with squid strips fished on a hi-lo rig accounting for the best scores. Spearing also take fish. Fred is anxiously looking forward to the good fishing to carry through the whole month of September. Last year weakfishing remained steady well into October.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** labelled the fluking from West Island to the lighthouse as fair this past week. Action with small weaks between Heckscher and Sayville continued good on squid and sand worms. Squid strips being used to take small seabass, porgies and blowfish around West Island. Snappers and crabs in good supply at both the West Sayville and Great River docks. Sixteen-year-old Dave Clark fishing in the Squadron Anglers Hudson Canyon tournament a couple of weeks back won the affair with a 255 lb. bigeye tuna taken after a 2½ hr. battle aboard the Gulf Stream. For fresh-water fans, lots of very small trout being taken in Bubbles Falls. Dave reminded there is a 9" minimum size limit on these fish which some anglers have been ignoring.

EAST ISLIP

Mike at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** reported small weakfish being taken on squid strips from behind the clam dredges off of Heckscher Park. Bigger weaks being taken on live snappers near the lighthouse. Offshore anglers got in some good innings with yellowfin tuna in 170' to 190' of water southeast of the inlet whenever sea conditions permitted. Lots of snappers being taken from all local docks.

BAY SHORE

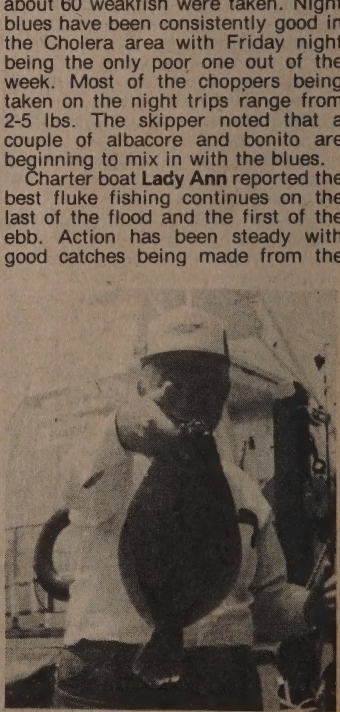
Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** said fluking has been pretty good at buoys 6 and 7 and the Coast Guard Station. Small weakfish being taken in the bay behind the clam dredges and bigger fish on live snappers from the lighthouse to the Coast Guard Station. Eight year old Rick Miller shared a nice catch of kingfish, porgies, sea bass and blowfish taken over the weekend at buoy 13, Ocean Beach. Al Randazzo checked in bass of 15 and 18 lbs. and a 12 lb. blue which he took livelining this past week. Bluefish SW of the inlet chumming and jigging. Yellowfin tuna in good supply in the vicinity of the Compass Rose and plenty of non-biting marlin spotted in 130' of water. Great snapper fishing and crabbing from local docks.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Casey Lee** said that fluke fishing continues good from West Channel to Ocean Beach. Spearing and squid combo has been the most effective bait with catches this past week varying anywhere from 100 to 250 keepers per day.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty** said that bluefishing varies from day to day. Sunday was the worst fishing of the week, yet Saturday was a super day. Plenty of choppers from 6-12 lbs. including about 60 weakfish were taken. Night blues have been consistently good in the Cholera area with Friday night being the only poor one out of the week. Most of the choppers being taken on the night trips range from 2-5 lbs. The skipper noted that a couple of albacore and bonito are beginning to mix in with the blues.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reported the best fluke fishing continues on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb. Action has been steady with good catches being made from the



Joseph Stoddard with one of eight keeper fluke taken in Great South Bay aboard the Babylon charter boat, "Luci II."

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Bridge to East Island on spearing and squid combos. Bluefishing has been erratic with the fish one day and gone the next.

At the **Captree Bait Station** Noel said their snapper derby held over the weekend resulted in plenty of activity on both the Captree Pier and Jones Beach Pier. Among the many winners were Charles Magera, Dave Eskowitz and John Moncavage. Some fluke also being taken from the piers on live killies, added Noel.

The open boat **Capt. Rod** said fluking was a little picky over the weekend but some decent catches were still made despite dirty water conditions and an ebb tide. Sea bass, blowfish and a couple of small blues are now mixed with the fluke from West Channel to the Inlet. The skipper says he is looking forward to a good September run of fluke as the flatties begin to concentrate in the deep water of the inlet.

Captain Stan Joseph of the brand new **Capt. Joseph** labelled the fluking over the weekend from Kismet to the lighthouse as decent. Of the bluefishing good scores were made on the Patchogue Grounds Sunday PM, but in general, most of the fishing has been southwest of the inlet in the vicinity of Cholera. Most of the fish have been in the 2-5 lb. range, although the Patchogue fish run anywhere from 5 to 12 lbs.

On the **Captree Queen,** Captain Gordon Roman said the fluke action took a downturn after last week's storm but showed steady improvement during the weekend and should be back in full swing any day now. The skipper has been fishing at Kismet, West Island and the Lighthouse with Sunday's catch totalling just under 200 keepers. Bluefishing was picky on Friday and Saturday with none of the boats being able to sail on Thursday due to rough seas. Sunday was another story however as a good body of blues from 5-12 lbs. were located on the Patchogue Grounds. Twelve fares totalled 125 of the choppers in a couple of hours fishing time. The captain was cautiously optimistic that this could be the start of some steady fishing close to home. He pointed to a significant drop in water temperature as a basis for his optimism.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Bob Joseph** said that while bluefishing has been running hot and cold he felt that overall the picture had improved with more consistent fishing being found now than at any time during the season. He has been fishing southwest of the inlet for fish up to 5 lbs. although a decent catch was made at Patchogue on Saturday night with most of the fish in the 8-12 lb. bracket. Fluking through Sunday was decent despite poor conditions which included dirty water and an ebb tide. Fluking was being done from West Island to the inlet with the last of the flood providing the best action. Plenty of fish are in the bay and with the last half of the flood falling into this week's fishing picture the skipper was looking for a very good week with the flatfish.

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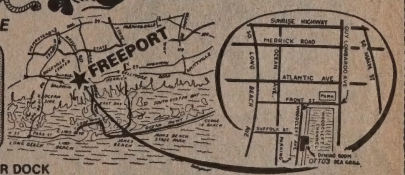

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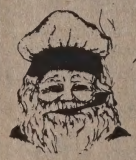

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Charter boat **Luci II** reported that a weekday charter led by Jim Breslin saw a 120 lb. tiger shark taken in 120' of water southeast of Fire Island inlet. on Saturday, rough seas made shark fishing difficult for a party led by Ed Lafferty. Instead the charter busied themselves trolling skipjack tuna on white feathers in 85' of water south of the inlet. Fluke fishing remains good with two keepers to every short on sand eels and squid from West Island to the inlet and in the State Channel.

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** said that offshore fishing was made difficult by rough seas this past week and weekend, but fishing was good nevertheless. The Babylon Tuna Club

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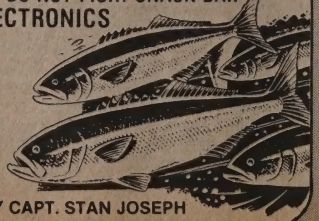

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boat Blue Water fished overnight at the Canyon on Wednesday and returned with an 80 lb. swordfish, a 245 lb. bigeye tuna, a white marlin and a load of yellowfin tuna and true albacore. Blue and white marlin in good numbers at the edge of the Canyon while lots of bluefin and yellowfin tuna are concentrated in the vicinity of the Texas Tower. The Lucky Wolf had a 117 lb. bluefin here on Sunday while the All Star totalled 1200 lbs. of bluefin and yellowfin tuna. Closer to the beach, bluefins to 40 lbs. and white marlin were concentrated 135° 20 miles out of Fire Island Inlet. In the Bay, Ed Kurtz had an 8 lb. fluke which he took on a live snapper. Another doormat of 12 lbs. was taken on Sunday, also on a snapper. Weakfish from 7-10 lbs. are being livelined between the lighthouse and the Coast Guard station. Ralph reminded that this coming Saturday is the day for the Babylon Tuna Club's annual snapper derby to be held at the Babylon Village dock located at the foot of Fire Island Avenue.

LINDENHURST

Mike of **lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 5 weaks from 7 to 11 lbs. made by Al Speehr on Friday between the Coast Guard Station and the lighthouse. Mike noted that big weaks are being livelined from the light to the Coast Guard station on live snappers. Some fish are being taken on strawberry jelly worms. Fluke fishing in recent days has been a little on the slow side but some decent catches were made. Lots of snappers and crabs from local docks.

AMITYVILLE

From **Combs Bait and Tackle** George spoke of a nice run of fluke in the State channel between Gilgo and Zachs Bay on killies and spearing. Weakfish between the 3rd Wantagh and the Meadowbrook bridges on live snappers or bunker. A few big blues are mixed with the weaks. Porgies and sea bass have made an appearance in the Amity Cut and around West Island. Liveliners took a few bass in the teens between the Jones Beach piers and Haunts Creek this past week. No real big fish, however. Offshore, yellowfin and bluefin tuna were in good supply in 170' of water for the guys who were able to get to them. George knew of action with bigeye tuna and swordfish by boatmen who ran to the Canyon earlier in the week.

SEAFORD

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco** said that after good fluking earlier in the week the action died after Thursday's wind. Sunday's AM trip was the first sign that the fishing was returning to normal with a nice catch of good sized fluke being made. Many seabass were mixed with the

fluke. The skipper has been fishing the Seaford and Merrick area.

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** said it appears fluke have improved both in size and quantity with some good scores made at Four Corners and Goose Creek on sand eels and squid combos. For weakfish, Lon named the 3rd Bridge, Haunts Creeka and Fort Neck Point as being the best bets to liveline snappers for fish up to 10 and 12 lbs. A few bass also being livelined in the area. Seabass are spread around the bay in fair numbers and small blues come and go in Jones Inlet for umbrella rig trollers. Best tuna action in recent days has been in 175 to 180 feet of water. Snappers and crabs in good supply locally.

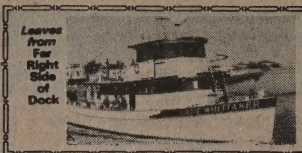
John at **Pop's Fishing Station** in Seaford reported good fishing on Friday and Saturday but said that Sunday was slow. Fluke, snappers, weakfish, crabs, seabass, blackfish and small blues are all combining to make for some fine mixed bags. Some of those scoring over the weekend included Joe Mecki who fished the Squaw Island drain on Saturday and took 100 seabass up to 2 lbs. on squid. Also on Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Joe Giosa returned with a nice mixed bag of fluke and seabass fishing between the 2nd bridge and Four Corners. On Sunday, fishing in the same area, Robert Alesi and his 2 sons returned with 10 keeper fluke. Joe and Henry Meyer and Greg Conroe had 10 fluke and a half a bucket of snappers on Sunday. For crabbers, Tony and Vinnie Tarantola and Mike Spoust filled a bushel basket in Massapequa Cove.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station Jimmy said that it's the same story with the fluke. Plenty of fish around, but many of them are shorts. Earlier in the week there was some good action with big weakfish on live snapper and bunker,

Seven-year-old Dina Breslow with a brace of 3 lb. fluke taken aboard the family boat in Great South Bay. Subscriber photo.

CAPTREE



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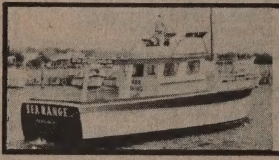

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but this fishing died. Plenty of snappers and crabs around the marina dock. Ed Bing of the Bingo ran to 165' of water on Saturday and returned with a 140 lb. hammerhead shark. Jimmy noted that a rough ocean hurt the offshore fishing this past weekend.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

The **Capt Al** tells of very good bluefishing all week long with Friday being fantastic. Thirty six passengers had over 1000 bluefish on this daytime jigging trip working the grounds off Jersey for 2 to 12 lb. choppers. Wednesday was excellent also while Friday and Saturday nights were fair. Night trips have been hot and cold on bait and chum. The skipper's wife, Pat Lindroth, had 2 albacore Sunday of 9 and 12 lbs. Weaks, blues and fluke were also mixed into Sunday's catch off Jersey on diamond jigs.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** reports mixed bag catches of bonito, albacore, weaks, blues and a striper from Thursday through the weekend. From early in the week through Wednesday, the bluefishing was super with Wednesday and extra special great day with catches of 30 to 50 bluefish a man being commonplace. From Thursday afternoon through Sunday, fish were caught on all the trips though it took a little searching. Fish were caught on every drift however. Action should return to it's very good quality by the time you read this report.

The **Aloma II** reports excellent fluking up to the storm Wednesday. Catches were from 15 to 18 keepers a man up to that point but since then it has dropped down to 3 to 5 keepers a man. Things should bounce back to normal by the time you read this on Thursday. Night bluefishing has remained constantly good with fish 3 to 8 lbs. from the NB buoy to Cholera. This has been bait and chum. All tickets are sold for next Monday, August 31st. Starting Sept. 1 the boat will be flounder fishing all day. Watch ad for details.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports a very good week with Tuesday being best aboard the **BF III** with over 300 blues boated on diamond jigs to the west. Fish have been mixed from 2 to 6 lbs. High hook on the **BF II** was John Hornauer of Schoharie NY with 37 blues. Pat Partland of Port Washington was high hook on the **BF III** with 27 blues. Some fluke to 4 lbs. also hit the diamond jigs as they touched

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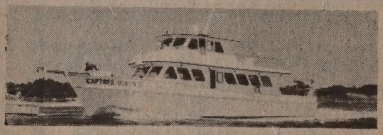

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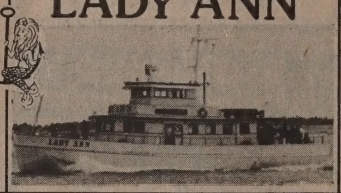

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bottom. On Thursday's trip Tim Riley of Sunnyside aboard the **BF III** boated an 11 lb. weak, 1 of many weaks and blues caught that day. On Saturday over 40 weakfish were caught aboard the **BF II & III** combined, blues running 2 to 4 lbs. Saturday's pool winner was Larry Scully of Valley Stream with a 10 lb. weak. Sunday weaks were caught to 11 lbs. and blues to 5 lbs. plus an 11 lb. striper. Capt Charlie Adams ran that trip. Capt Eddie Geyer ran the boat Friday night for a good catch of blues SW of the Inlet on bait.

Bob at **Hook Line & Sinker** says that this past week some large fluke were taken in the back canals on sandeels and spearing and at the inlet was not really that great. Bob suggests trying Randall Bay and Baldwin Bay. Lots of snappers and blueclaw crabs all over the place.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** tells of excellent fluke fishing on his ocean trips with fish ranging from 2 to 6 lbs. High hook Wednesday was 20 keeper fluke with an occasional weak and blue brought in. Sandeels and spearing are working best. Aboard the half-day boat **Capt Lou IV**, decent catches of keepers are being made with still plenty of throwbacks.

Charterboat **Shalidon** called to say that he is sailing nearly everyday now catching shark, tuna, and a lot of bluefish on the troll. The blues have been hanging around the buoy 4/Three Sisters area.

Capt Mike Miller of the **Apus I & II** says his tuna fishing has been super all this week with a lot of bluefin tuna caught from 5 to 75 lbs. with a 168 pounder caught during the week. Lots of yellowfin tuna still around. One day during the week he had 7 tuna between 60 and 110 lbs. and on another day he had 6 albies in the 40 lb. range. This is on green machines mostly, and also on daisy chains. The boats are fishing north of the Texas Tower and also east of the tower. The **Apus** night sharking trips have been good around the Noah buoy. Good catches of 3 to 5 lb. blues on umbrellas and on diamond jigs. Mike says the storm didn't hurt things any. He also says there are still plenty of skippies around.

Capt Joe Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** fishing west of the Noah buoy had 30 skippies Saturday and 40 on Sunday plus a couple of screaming runoffs. Albies are now in evidence in 65' of water off Jone's Tower.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports this looks like the greatest tuna year in a long long time. The Christy Lee IV on Sunday fishing south of the Noah had 9 yellowfin tuna from 70 to 80 lbs. for Steve of Columbia Meats on jets and feathers. The Fisherman had bluefin tuna in the 35 lb. range and a catch of skippies. Atlantic, **Lady J III**, Norsman II and **North Star** fished Tarpon's Lump for blues from 6 to 11 lbs. and big weaks from 8 to 11 lbs. Smaller blues are at the channels. Corsair and Atlantic fluked Saturday at the

channels and Reynold's Channel and found the biggest fluke at the Tin Can Grounds. **Super Spray II** has been continuing the 2 half-day daily fluke trips locally with a good percentage of keepers on both tides. Pool fish have generally been in the 4 to 6 lb. range. The night bluefishing trips were loading up on choppers prior to Wednesday's storm but then things got picky on the following nights. The fish have been 10 to 12 pounders. Catches should bounce back by the time you read this. The boat will be running another of it's super cod wreck trips on Labor Day, Sept. 7th. This is by reservation only and these trips book very quickly. The last one was a huge success sailing to nearly capacity with a lot of cod caught. See ad for details.

The **Capt Bill** reports that at the beginning of the week right through Monday morning's trip, fluking was good but then with the storm things cooled off considerably. Sunday showed a little improvement in the back creeks and inlet and things should be strong again by the weekend.

The **Capt Gary** reports Friday night's bluefishing trip was tough due to the heavy ground swell but Saturday's fluke trip for John Kerns and party picked a way at fluke most of the day. Sunday's trip for Victoria Smith and friends had a fair pick on fluke on spearing and sandeels and squid. Both days were at Jone's Inlet and in Reynold's.

Capt Pat of the charterboat **Lady J III** called to say Monday's trip for Bruce Valentine and 4 friends had 100 blues fishing Long Beach and Jersey, fish 1 to 9 lbs. on jigs. Tuesday and Thursday the boat fished American Airlines. Tuesday they had a very good day with blues 2 to 10 lbs. Thursday was a tough day when the storm hit. Friday's trip for Title Guarantee, Mineola, had a good pick of blues off Long Branch on jigs, fish 2 to 7 lbs. Saturday's trip for the Walter Plate group had fair blues and weaks to 7 lbs. plus a 12 lb. albie. Sunday's trip for Eric Bodowski and group had fair local fluking, fish up to 2½ lbs.

Hudson Point Fishing Station called to say that Fred Bosch on his boat Green H, fished Ambrose for a 10 lb. 8 oz. fluke. Aboard the Misty 1250 lbs. of tuna was caught including a 315 lb. bigeye tuna caught by Williard Giedel of Wisconsin on Thursday. Snappers and blueclaw crabs excellent all over. Some nice fluke for sharpies on the inside. Jone's Inlet has picked up ont he last of the ebb, using large killies. The station has a federal license now which enables to buy, store and weigh giant bluefin tuna.

Charterboat **Psyche's Twist** called to say that Tuesday's charter for John, Ted, Jim, Jay and Capt Tom Kelly of the Howard Beach charterboat **Thermocline** caught 3 brown shark up to 100 lbs. plus a 200 lb. hammerhead shark fishing 150 degrees out of Jone's in 135' of water.

Anthony's Fishing Station says the

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This 360 lb. mako was taken in the vicinity of the HA buoy aboard the Freeport charter boat "Capt. Ben."

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best bet this past week has been blueclaw crabs at all the pilings, docks and all the shallows. A few keeper fluke have also been brought in.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** has been having fair fluking off the West Bar for TF Motors, Lynbrook. A trip for Art Bromans gruop had some white water jigging at the Ponderosa with blues to 10 lbs. A trip for Bemo Shipping also had good jigging at the Ponderosa right up to the storm moving in. Tom Fazio's charter from Howard Beach had a fair pick of blues, bonito and weaks off the Jersey coast on diamond jigs.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of big blues caught Saturday at Cholera up to 13 lbs. for jiggers. Some fluke in the 3 to 4 lb. range at the Tin Can and in Jone's Inlet. This is on fish belly and sandeels. Blueclaw crabs and snappers in the 10 inch variety are all over the bays. A few porgies are being taken on worms in the deeper holes.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charterboat **Marie III** called to say that Wednesday's trip SE of the Inlet saw an excellent afternoon catch of weaks and skippies with 2 to 4 fish on all the time on feathers. Two bluefin tuna to 20 lbs. were caught and 2 were dropped. Skippies are ranging from 8 to 12 lbs. Saturday's trip for blues off Long Branch saw a fair to good catch of 2 to 4 pounders. A couple of bonito and albies were mixed in. Saturday night's bluefish trip at Cholera saw some 12 to 16 lb. monsters caught with twice as many broken off as boated. This was on bait and chum. Sunday's fluke charter in the bay had a 40 percent keeper ratio. Sea bass and snappers and blueclaw crabs also rounded out the day's action at Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead. This was sandeels, spearing and squid.

Ed's Fishing Station reports fluking picking up in the Flats. Some of the rental skiffs had numbers like 30, 24 and 15 keepers. North Channel has also been good. Killies have been working best and sandeels next. Blackfish are making a nice showing at the Meadowbrook and Loop Bridges on clam. Blueclaw crabs are in the Flats and at buoy 15. Snappers are on the increase in size and number. There was a big run of giant blues Saturday night at Cholera on bait. Sea bass and porgies on sand worms at the Meadowbrook Bridge and off the pier west of the Long Beach Bridge.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of good fluking and sea bass on spearing and killies west of the bridge at the Junction of Sea Dog Creek and Reynold's Channel. One rental skiff had 12 sea bass and 15 fluke on the

weekend. Also try drifting the area from Short Beach Coast Guard to the Meadowbrook Bridge. Some big blues at Cholera and many schools of smaller blues.

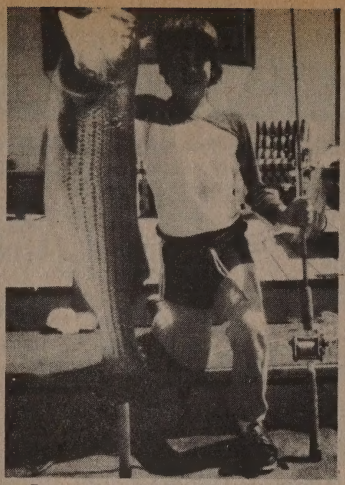
ISLAND PARK

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports super fluking Wednesday at the channels up until the time the storm hit, at which time the boat returned to fish the bay for the rest of the week. Saturday saw lots of swells at the channels. On Sunday fares had 6 to 7 keepers a man fishing at the channels with best action at the top of the tide. Clem says that the very good fishing should return by the time you read this report. Small blues and weaks were being caught by trollers at the channels said the skipper. Please note that the boat will be sailing a regular schedule on Monday, Labor Day, Sept. 7th.

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook says there has been excellent snapper fishing and blueclaw crabbing all over along with good fluking off Rockaway Playland and at Ambrose Channel with fluke up to 12 lbs. on sandeels, squid or strip baits.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina tells of fluke, blacks, weaks and a few bass in Reynold's. During the week Steve Rap and Jane Reynolds had 26 fluke up to 5 lbs. fishing the Tin Can Grounds on spearing. Also fishing the can Ed Reindfleisch had 40 keeper fluke also on spearing. The rental boats at the station are averaging a dozen keepers per boat fishing buoys 7 through 9. Bob Rosen of Woodmere bagged a 12 lb. weak on live snapper fishing under the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Elliott Hannon and Sam Salem had a good catch of schoolie bass taken on clam chum at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Blackfish beginning to stir at the AB Bridge. Snappers and blueclaws all over the joint.



Brian Burchianti, 10-years-old, made his first striper one to remember. The 44 lber. was taken in Reynold's Channel near Atlantic Beach. It was weighed at Long Beach Sports Marina.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter-boat **Kim** tells us that the super bluefishing he had been having slowed with the arrival of hurricane Dennis Thursday afternoon and it continued poor through Saturday with the wind and dirty water and heave. From mid Sunday on conditions improved and big weakfish, some striped bass and also blues started to be caught again in the channels and off the Jersey shore down to Manasquan.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** reports the picture is improving on fluke in Reynold's, particularly behind Long Beach HS and the creeks off the Golf Course. Squid and killies have been working best on both tides. Kermit Wolpin had a 15 lb. 2 oz. bluefish and is now the leader in that category in the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club's contest for the season. Some blackfish up to 6 lbs. being caught at the AB Bridge. Some stripers on clam bellies taken at night in the early morning hours at the bridge, fish 5 to 10 pounders. The Tin Can best now for blues, weaks, stripers and fluke for boats trolling umbrella rigs.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle says snappers are the best item this past week with lots of them being caught, fish ¾ to 1½ lbs. on spearing and a float. Small flounders starting off both bridges on worms. A 10 lb. and a 11¼ lb. weakfish were taken off the North Channel Bridge on bunker chunk by John Vigliatti during the week on incoming water during the day. Loads of blueclaw crabs around.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Dorothy B reports fantastic fluking Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for fish up to 5 lbs. Average catch Wednesday was 20 keepers a man. On Thursday hurricane Dennis struck and he had to return early. Friday, Saturday and Sunday saw fishing improve each day and things should be back to normal by the time you read this report.

Capt Tom of the **Pilot II** reports lots of porgies and sea bass caught Sunday and loads of blackfish and porgies on Saturday. Blackfish have been to 7 lbs., porgies averaged ½ to 1 lbs. and sea bass average 1 lb. off the Jersey coast.

Capt Walt of the **Flamingo III** reports the week was anywhere from good to excellent on the bluefishing with the exception of Thursday which was hurricane day. Friday despite the ground swell fishing was very good as was Saturday and Sunday very good in the afternoon on blues and weaks for an hour and a half of red hot

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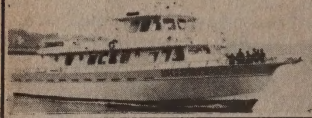

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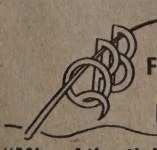

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diamond jigging. Catches averaged 10 to 15 blues a man and there was some very good weakfish numbers too. Bonito and albies have started to show with the storm evidently pushing them up to the beach. Five school tuna were caught locally on party boats. Blues are mixed to 8 lbs. and weaks are running from 8 to 12 lbs. Walt says that late summer and fall storms often trigger red hot fishing just off the beaches.

Mike's Tackle Shop reports a lot of big porgies from 1 to 1½ lbs. being caught by the area's boats and lots of albies and bonito on the bluefish boats fishing Long Branch. These are 4 to 5 lb. fish and they are mixed in with skipjack tuna. This is all jigs. Good weakfish catches Saturday at Chapel Hill on diamond jigs. Lots of big snappers in the bay and loads of blueclaw crabs at night at the pilings in nets.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** reports plenty of snappers and sand porgies from the piers to the bridge to South Beach to Tottenville. Worms for the porgies and small tins or spearing for the snappers. South Beach and the Burger Ave. storm sewers a good area for fluke with a 50 percent keeper ratio. Great Kills Harbor continues to produce weakfish in the 7 to 8 lbs. range though not as heavy as in previous weeks. Try the VZ Bridge area 21 Can drifting worms or jelly worms or bouncing S&G tigertails for some 8 lb. class weakfish. Some fluke have been taken from Old Orchard Lighthouse to West Bank Lighthouse over to Sandy Hook on fish belly and sandeels. There has been a pick of small bass on an ebbing tide under the VZ Bridge.

North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

John's Gun and Tackle described a good run of bluefish in the 8-12 lb. class off Mamaroneck for trollers with umbrellas or for bunker chunkers. Blues were also in Larchmont Harbor, and were spotted chasing bunker there. Chris Schroud of the New Rochelle Police Department took an 8 lber. aboard the Jacqueline. Snappers were abundant but porgies were spotty.

Capt Pete Pearson of the **Klondike** reported the bluefishing was good during the weekdays even last Thursday with all the east wind. On Monday and Tuesday fishing was good with about 1500 fish taken per

trip. Most went 2 to 5 pounds except for Saturday when they got into spurts of 6 to 12 pounds. The only slow one was Sunday. They had a few shots in the morning but the afternoon was a slow pick.

CITY ISLAND

Ebb Tide III reports lots of porgies being caught by fares with the boat working from Lloyd's Neck to Smithtown on sand worms. Fish are running from 1 to 1½ lbs. with a few blues mixed in.

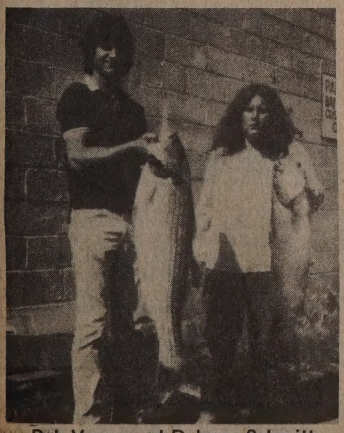
At **Jack's Bait and Tackle**, John diCuffa said catches of 30-40 big porgies per boat were not unusual. Worms were best bait. Bluefishing was a back and forth proposition, and there was a pick of bass from 4-8 lbs. for those who cared to troll or drift worms.

GLEN COVE

Dave Watt the **Glen Cove Sport shop** told us of big blues in the evenings and early mornings in Hempstead Harbor and off Morgan's jetty. Live bunker and bunker chunks produced 10-16 lb. fish. Bass on the Port Washington Edge and in Davison's area were schoolies to 6 lbs. Snappers could be taken most anywhere on 3/8 and 1/4 oz. Kastmasters.

HUNTINGTON

Packy Collins said that the fishing on the **Ever Ready** was "sensational, the best of the season, day or night." When the big blues in mid-Sound won't cooperate, Collins can find 7-8 lb. fish over by Norwalk. Some bass and bonito show up in fine catches of blues and weaks. Examples of the week's best include Friday morning's tally of 63 blues by Art Tubertini of East Northport, and Friday night's haul of 93 blues of 4-12 lbs. and 11



Bob Verga and Dolores Schmitt with a 28 lb. bass and a 10½ lb. weak taken on an evening run aboard the Huntington open boat "Ever-Ready."

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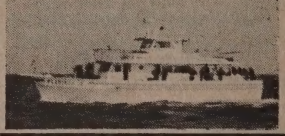

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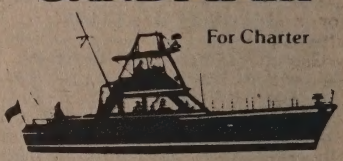

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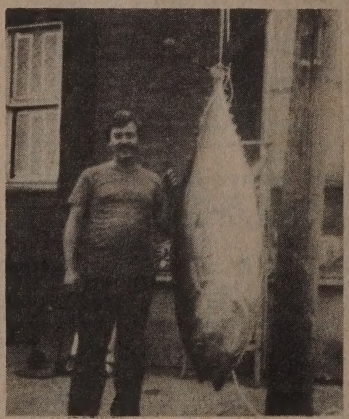

Tom Comber boated this 220 lb. bigeye tuna after a two hour battle aboard the private boat, Marty's Twin. The fish hit a green machine at the Canyon. It was weighed at Skippy's Bait & Tackle in E. Rockaway.

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Young James Avondolio hefts the 31 lb. striper he landed aboard his dad's boat off of Eaton's Neck. The cow was taken on a Tri-Fin Whiptail and 12 lb. test. Subscriber photo.

weaks of 8-12½ lbs. by Jane and Bill Schneider, Bill Collins, and Joe Cassiar. Collins said to check the ad for new sailing time, 4PM, on afternoon trips.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** described a blitz in the Eaton's Triangle. "They're knocking the socks off 'em again!" Blues at the OB run 2-6 lbs. with a few bigger fish, while weaks are 7-11 lbs. A 10 lb. tiderunner was weighed in on Saturday morning. Best bet on weaks is to hit bottom with Tiger Tails, using drails when necessary and lots of scope. Tremendous numbers of porgies all the way from 1/2 to 2 lbs. can be hauled from buoy 13 and from the area around the Lilco platform.

Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** said that, in addition to the "fantastic action" off Eatons, there were big blues chasing bunkers in Cold Spring Harbor, fish over 10 lbs. At Lloyd's, Ferraro suggested drifting a Tiger Tail for weaks, dropping to the bottom and taking up 1/2 turn, then setting the rod in a holder. Bucktails took bass of 6, 12, and 13 lbs. on Saturday, and there are plenty of snappers for the kids.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** told us of pretty good fluke fishing in the Eaton's Rips with 6 fish in the 4-5 lb. class not unusual for those fishing sand eel-squid combinations. Fluke could also be found off Crab Meadow on moving water. Blues could be taken on plugs off Fort Saloniga for those who tired of jigging them off Eaton's.

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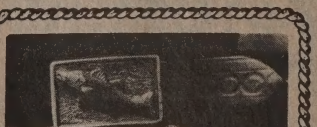

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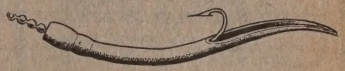

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KINGS PARK

Helen Koliner at the **O.K. Bait and Tackle** saw a lot of 3 lb. blues off the mouth of the Nissequogue on Rebels. Larger blues and occasional bass could be found at night. Porgies oblige on squid and clams, and a few small fluke can also be taken on sand eel-squid combinations.

PORT JEFFERSON

John Fisher of the **Aqua-Gem** described "up and down" bluefishing on 3-4 lb. fish down by buoy 9 with one torrid day followed by three to four fair ones. He'll be switching to bottom fishing on porgies and fluke at week's end, now that most customers seem saturated with blues.

Candy Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** saw some nice, big porgies off Crane's Neck and off Oldfield last week as well as 2½-3 lb. bluefish from buoy 11. Trolling will pull blues all day long. She spotted one lone 9½ lb. weakfish on the station scales and said that there are still 2½-3 lb. fluke to be hauled from White Beach.

MOUNT SINAI

Dick Brown at **Dick's Sporting Goods** advised trolling or jigging for 6-7 lb. blues, but said that bonito could also be found off Miller Place. Thin mono pulling Trifins in 3 oz. sizes produced a catch of 12 bonito, when lures were trailed 150-200 yds. back of the boat. Fluke averaging 16-17" could be found all the way to Wading River, from buoy 9 east. Porgies are mediums and there are a few bass around.

North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell

AQUEBOGUE

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** spoke of small fluke in the Sound off the Beachcomber Motel and bluefishing with diamond jigs 1/2 to 3/4 miles offshore. Choppers are 3-5 lbs. in that area.

MATTITUCK

Charley Caraftis at **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** said "Oh boy, the porgies are stacked up!" Best fish of the week weighed 3 lbs. Apparently last week's easterly blow pushed big porgies into the 30-50' depths between the Mattituck Inlet and the Beachcomber. Best action on scup is in the morning before the bluefish show. Some big fluke and nice sea

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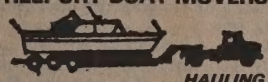

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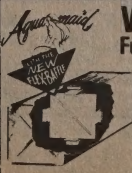

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bass are caught while porgy fishing.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** was still talking about plenty of porgies on Sunday morning. Zones were buoy 18, between 22 and the Tower, and west of Robin's by buoy 4. Weakfish catches ranged from a couple per boat (mixed with the porgies) to 23.

Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's** said that the porgies were all 1/2 to 3/5 lb. stuff and that the weaks ran to 3 lbs. Robbins noticed the first three

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kingfish of the season and increasing numbers of blowfish.

SOUTHOLD

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** told us that there was still a pick of fluke at Truman's, but that the action was not as good there as it was two weeks ago. Flounder could be found on the Sound side of the Point (1½ lb. fish were not unusual) and blackfish are around the light, although the really big tautog haven't shown up yet. Porgy sizes were up sharply in Southold and

Weaks of 11½ and 10½ lbs. caught at Eaton's Neck by Josef and Tom Sollock. They were checked in at Bowman's Sporting Goods.

Noyac Bays last week with some 2 lb. fish in catches. The first blackfish came out of the Brickyard, too.

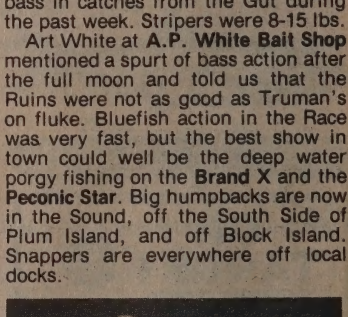
Coe Harris at **Southold Bait and Tackle** said that there were few fluke at Gardiner's now and that the Bay was dead on all but porgies. A scattering of blues showed at Truman's last week.

GREENPORT

Anna Rainis described an excellent day of fluking aboard the **Blue Albatross** just before the Northeast blow last week. On Wednesday, over 100 nice sized fluke came from Truman's Beach with the pool winner a 6 lb. fish.

Richie Jensen told us that the **Nancy Ann** was chasing 5-8 lb. blues between Pigeon Rip and the Race. Diamond jigging was productive for choppers, and there were also a few bass in catches from the Gut during the past week. Stripers were 8-15 lbs.

Art White at **A.P. White Bait Shop** mentioned a spurt of bass action after the full moon and told us that the Ruins were not as good as Truman's on fluke. Bluefish action in the Race was very fast, but the best show in town could well be the deep water porgy fishing on the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star**. Big humpbacks are now in the Sound, off the South Side of Plum Island, and off Block Island. Snappers are everywhere off local docks.



Edwin Hernandez, Felix Hernandez, and Manuel Cortez with a load of porgies up to 2 lbs. taken at buoy 28 near Robin's Island. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

Capt Clark II reports that there is consistently good porgy action is Peconic Bay with porgies going from ¾ to 1 lb. on sand worms and clam. Thursday saw Harry Gunther and wife from Brooklyn with over 90 porgies between them. Pool fish was a 3 lb. weak. The summer run of weaks is holding up and anywhere from 25 to 30 are being caught per day in with the porgies. Please watch this column for the next ocean wreck trip or all for info.

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports the fluking is holding up in Shinnecock Bay with a better keeper ratio now. Fish are averaging 1½ to 3 lbs. on live killies, sandeel, squid or spearing. Snappers are throughout the bay on small shiners or small tin. Flounders are a good bet at Hetty's Creek and the west side of the bridge at buoys 17 through 20. Peconic Bay is holding a lot of small porgies just about all over on worm and clam. Also some weakfish at Rose's Grove in the 4 to 5 lb. range on worms and on squid strips. Blackfish are starting and Thom says he will have green crabs in a week or so. A few bass have been taken at the Inlet and a 33 pounder was weighed in, taken a live eel. Try a live bunker also. Scattered blues of mixed sizes in the inlet and bay. Some fluke on the south side of Gardiner's on killies and squid. The store will be carrying shotgun shells for all of you bird hunters.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** says lots of porgies of mixed sizes from the Monastery to 17 with some weakfish mixed in. A few fluke are also being caught in the same area with outgoing tide working best.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** tells us that Monday's fluking was a wipe-out due to the strong NW wind. Likewise Tuesday morning but in the afternoon it started to happen at Truman Beach. Wednesday however was the day for fluke and a super one it was with George Gidiccin of Baldwin grabbing high hook honors with 22 fluke, all keepers. Fish ran up to 5½ lbs. This was at Truman's also and the fish hit on both tides. Lots of fish were caught all day and 3 nets were going constantly. The porgy catches have taken a sharp upswing both in numbers and quality from last week. A bucket full is no problem. Some fares had 2 buckets full. Some of these fish are very big humpbacks which can only be classified as super humps. Artie says the eventually the Montauk fleet moved in. Plenty of porgies around.

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Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

Little has changed on the surf fishing front despite a week of cool nights, northerly breezes and Hurricane Dennis passing by offshore. A big heave through the weekend made fishing the open beaches of the south shore and Montauk difficult to say the least. On the north shore, bluefish entertained casters along the beach from Mt. Sinai to Rocky Point.

The bass news was non-existent on both shores and the weakfish picture was not much better. Despite the poor

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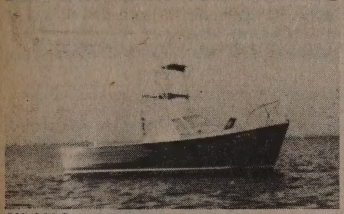

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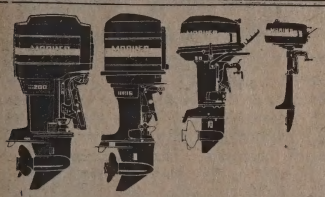

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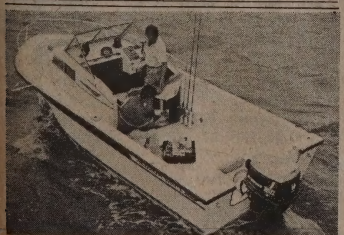

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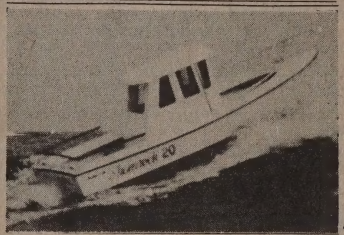

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SST Propeller - 1-yr.-old. Mint cond. Fits 85 - 140 OMC outboard. $90. 516-221-9166.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK: Specializing in one of a kind pieces. No job too small. Dress up your boat. Teak step pads made to order. After 6PM. 516-623-1639.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

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Wholesale Marine Fasteners, Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

100% Stainless Steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpits. Custom & Standard products available. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Send for complete catalog; cost $2.25.

TRAILER HITCHES. The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in Long Island. Sales, Installations & Service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

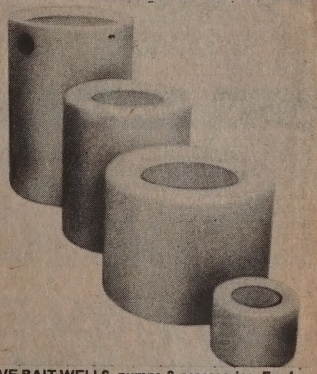
FISHING TACKLE

BUCKO'S Parts & Service Center: We carry parts for Daiwa, Kencor, Olympic, Newell, Ryobi, Penn, Shimano, Zebco, Quick, Mitchell. To order, please call: 617-674-7900, or write: P.O. Box 87, Fall River, Mass. 02724.

B-P FISHING Tackle Manufacturer—Most often copied! Never equaled! The largest selection of rigs, jigs, tubes & leaders; over 200 items. No comparison by anyone. Dealers call: 201-688-6059 or write: 22 Portland Rd., Union, NJ 07083.

FOUR SEASONS RIGS. Custom fishing rig manufacturer. "Night-Glow" & Hot Pink whiting & ling; also flounder corn special, Tandem red dot fluke. Hi-Lo pearl weakfish. Bluefish mullet. Over 60 different saltwater rigs. Dealers inquiries welcome. P.O. Box 1552, Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742; 201-929-1881.

Whale of a Sale! Send for free catalog. ADKINS FISHING TACKLE, P.O. Box 224, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 P/H. The Caddy Co., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. L, Central Islip, NY 11722, 516-234-0144.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Catch more fish...with super designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, N.J. 07032.

Free Catalog. Fine saltwater fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS—Beware of imitations. The ultimate in deadly, double hook design. Long the secret of the Pros. You will hook more & lose fewer fluke since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. All hand tied; finest materials. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. 3 rigs - $3.50. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG1, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540.

Continued On Next Page

MISCELLANEOUS

SUMMER DOCKAGE—Now taking reservations: $16 per ft. 23' limit. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. Also have a small selection of select brokerage boats for sale. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN. Available for charters, water deliveries, transfers, individual trips; boat handling instruction. 516-795-4498.

Offshore, inshore sport fishing charters. Sharks, tuna, marlin; special Canyon trips. 31' Bertram, twin diesel, full electronics. Custom tackle. 516-242-3642.

MATE WANTED: Experienced, 7 days. Open party boat. City Island, Bronx. Call betw. 6-9PM. 914-237-5351.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching & hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

WANTED: Old Nautical Items, any condition. Clocks, barometers, lamps, locks, lanterns & related items. Eves. 516-354-2668.

PETER DELESKI JR., Builder—additions, garages, tile, ceramics & quarry. After 6PM. 516-725-3739.

EMBLEMS—Direct from manufacturer. Swiss embroidered; custom made to your design. Send sample or sketch and quantity needed for free quotation. DAVID HAEMMERLE & Sons, Inc., Box 711, W. New York, NJ 07093.

LOBSTER TRAPS & LOBSTER FISHING EQUIPMENT. Lath, frames, funnels, warp buoys, Osco haulers. Power winch, elec. hauler; spec. $275. 516-427-4063.

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HUNTERS PARADISE 447 acres licensed pheasant preserve; 7 room house & cottage. 1-acre trout pond. Delaware County. 212-853-4899.

Boat Rental & Bait & Tackle Store, w/large off-street traffic, for sale. Prime location next to the Cross Bay Bridge in Rockaway, N.Y. Long lease available. Price $150,000 Firm. 212-634-8024.

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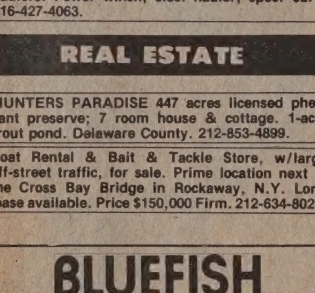


You're the Solution to Water Pollution!

summer fishing, at least some casters continued to pound away.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina**, Bernie Haag spoke of seeing a 16 lb. striper that was taken early last week on a plug in front of the Sun and Surf Beach Club. He had heard too of a couple of school bass to 5 lbs. taken on plugs at the Breezy Point jetty.

Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** in Seaford said that surf reports have been few but he did know that a couple of small blues along with an occasional weakfish are being taken at West End. Sand worms or Redfins have been taking fish at night while in the early AM or evening tins have been taking what few fish are being caught.

From **The Store** at Oak Beach Hays complained of wind and weed. Nothing doing from the Thumb or at Democrat in recent days. The last fish he heard of were taken early last week.

To the east, Dick told me from his bait and tackle shop in Mastic Beach that blues in the 4-5 lb. range have been providing sporadic action for beach buggy anglers able to cover a lot of ground. Hopkins, Kastmasters and diamond lures have been taking the fish when they do show. No bass or weakfish news from the area at all, said Dick.

Speaking from **Johnny's Bait and Tackle** in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch said that things have gotten so bad that casters requesting the latest info refused to believe him when he tells them things are dead. It seems they feel he's trying to keep something a secret. John bemoaned the big heave which created tough fishing conditions at the point but did know of at least one fish taken on the weekend. A caster was more intent on picking up lost plugs in the rocks took time enough from his searching to make a c couple of casts in Turtle Cove. To his suprise and everyone else's an 11 lb. bluefish pounced on his popping plug.

Over on the Sound, some big bluefish are being taken from western beaches and rock piles on bunker chunks. Fishing is by no means good but the chance is there to score with bluefish in the 10-15 lb. class.

The Miller Place-Sound beach area continues to produce fish as it has for most of the season. Although most of the action is with bluefish in the 5 lb. class, there have been a few weaks from 8-10 lbs. along with a couple of bonito mixed in. While most casters use tins, some of the blues are being taken on poppers. Dick of **Dick's Sporting Goods** in Mt. Sinai who keeps us informed on what's happening in this area said that while he confines most of his fishing to early morning and evening said that fish are taken at any time during the day and there is no set pattern to the action.

Speaking from **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Jimmy described the bluefishing along the beach as very good with most of the fish in the 3-6 lb. range. Tins and poppers have been accounting for fish along all the local beaches. Fish show any time of day and it is not unusual to hear of blitz-like fishing occurring under a midday sun. Jimmy added that loads of sand eels appear to be holding the fish tight to the beach and said that the fishing has been so consistent that some locals are growing weary of the blues. No weakfish or bass news from the area.

NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 8.)

over certain aspects of the Administration approach to the Clean Air Act. The Canadians are concerned with acid-causing emissions in the U.S. that eventually cause acid rain in their country. The Administration proposal talks only of research in relation to the acid rain problem, and Mr. Roberts also seems to feel that the principle calling for full partnership between the States and Federal Government in implementing standards may work negatively in regard to this problem.

Council Takes Realistic Positions At August Meeting

At their August meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council took some very realistic positions. In regard to the bluefish plan, they agreed on a definition of a recreational fisherman as follows: "One who fishes in marine waters primarily for recreational purposes; whose catch is primarily for home consumption, although occasionally a part or all of the catch may be sold and enter commercial channels." They also rejected a proposal to exclude the South Atlantic area from the plan, and approved a couple of additional alternatives—including one that would place a quota on the commercial bluefish fishery and prohibit a directed fishery using purse seines and pair trawls.

Another good move was a recommendation to the other councils involved in the Swordfish Plan that the Council meet with the Food and Drug administration to request that they change their prohibition concept to one involving a warning in regard to mercury in fish. As has been the case ever since the Council came into existence, Captain Dave Hart was re-elected as chairman and Elliot Goldman as vice-chairman.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	6:50	7:10	7:35	8:00	7:30	7:50	8:20	8:40	10:50	11:15	10:15	10:35	6:35	7:00	8/27
FRI.	7:40	7:55	8:25	8:45	8:15	8:35	9:10	9:30	11:40	–	11:05	11:20	7:25	7:45	8/28
SAT.	8:25	8:40	9:10	9:30	9:05	9:20	9:55	10:15	12:00	12:25	11:50	–	8:10	8:30	8/29
SUN.	9:05	9:20	9:55	10:15	9:50	10:05	10:40	10:55	12:45	1:05	12:10	12:35	8:55	9:15	8/30
MON.	9:50	10:00	10:35	10:55	10:35	10:45	11:20	11:40	1:25	1:45	12:55	1:15	9:40	9:55	8/31
TUE.	10:30	10:40	11:20	11:35	11:15	11:30	–	12:00	2:00	2:20	1:35	1:55	10:20	10:40	9/1
WED.	11:10	11:20	–	12:00	–	12:00	12:20	12:45	2:40	2:45	2:15	2:35	11:05	11:20	9/2
THUR.	11:50	–	12:15	12:40	12:10	12:45	1:05	1:30	3:05	3:15	2:55	3:15	11:45	–	9/3

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Strafford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtuclet	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

8/28	6:21	7:40
8/29	6:22	7:39
8/30	6:23	7:37
8/31	6:24	7:35
9/1	6:25	7:34
9/2	6:26	7:32
9/3	6:27	7:31

Moonrise/Moonset

8/28	5:02AM	7:20PM
8/29	6:07AM	7:54PM
8/30	7:12AM	8:25PM
8/31	8:14AM	8:54PM
9/1	9:15AM	9:21PM
9/2	10:14AM	9:49PM
9/3	11:12AM	10:17PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/28	9/6	9/14	9/20

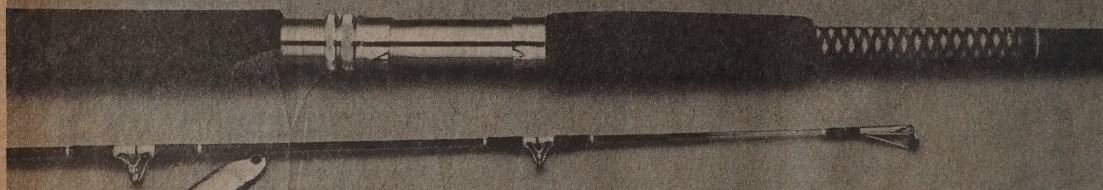
The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	3:45	**9:55**	4:05	**10:20**
Fri.	4:35	**10:45**	4:55	**11:10**
Sat.	5:25	**11:30**	5:40	**11:55**
Sun.	6:10	—	6:30	**12:20**
Mon.	7:00	**12:45**	7:25	**1:10**
Tues.	7:45	**1:35**	8:15	**2:00**
Wed.	8:35	**2:25**	9:00	**2:45**
Thurs.	9:20	**3:10**	9:45	**3:30**

Introducing the toughest rod on 75 percent of the earth's surface.



The Ugly Stik® rod.

Fenwick hasn't got it. Diawa can't duplicate it. Garcia doesn't make it.

There's only one place you can get the toughest, lightest, most durable big-water rod ever made. From Shakespeare.

That's because only Shakespeare has the patented Double-Bilt™ Process—a unique blank-building system that covers an inner spiral of graphite with a tough outer layer of fiberglass.

The result: A big-water rod so strong, it can outfight most any fish that swims. Yet so light, you can fish all day without tiring.

In fact, we're so confident the Ugly Stik rod can take any punishment a fish can dish out, we'll replace it free within five years of purchase if it ever breaks under normal fishing conditions.

But the best thing about the Ugly Stik rod from Shakespeare is that there are over 20 different big-water Ugly Stik rods to choose from.

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Remember that the next time you wade into a fight with a big-water monster,

Because when you challenge the toughest fish on 75 percent of the earth's surface, you want a rod that's 100 percent dependable.

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Shakespeare

Ugly Stik® RODS

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